



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2017 Jubilee

Celebrating 50 years
First Profession—7/18/1967

Sister Judene Marie Studer, SSND

Sister Judene Marie spent the first two decades of her ministry in the Milwaukee diocese. She taught at five different Catholic grade schools from 1968 through 1981. Turning to pastoral work for the next eight years, she served as director of religious education for two different St. Mary parishes in Wisconsin: Fond du Lac and Burlington. She moved to Chicago, serving in the same capacity at Annunciata Parish through 1998. She continued serving in similar directorships of Christian formation back in the Milwaukee and Kenosha parishes of St. Veronica, St. Therese and Blessed Savior. She concluded the last full-time ministry in 2015 and currently serves the community at Notre Dame of Elm Grove. She graduated from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee with a bachelor's in elementary education and minor in history. In 1980, she earned a master's in religious education from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids.



A memory I have to share...

Teaching has been in my bones since the beginning. As a student at Mount Mary, I taught a third grade First Communion class on Saturday mornings. The rather strict, old pastor commented to me at the end of the year, "The children were prepared well." For 12 years after that, I taught mostly intermediate grades in five schools throughout the Milwaukee Archdiocese. My inner movement was to focus on teaching religion. When I completed a master's in religious studies, I became a director of faith formation. My intention was to teach adults, since too many missed out on being re-educated in the faith after Vatican II. For only two years did I have the joy of that work as adult and family minister. For the rest of those 31 years, I was responsible for all aspects of faith formation in six parishes. That meant teaching catechists Sacrament instructions, how to teach and how to plan lessons. I enjoyed the challenges of working with Christian formation leaders of neighboring parishes to provide both adult enrichment programs as well as instruction for those entering the Church through the RCIA program. It was an honor to mentor not only the catechists, but also deacons from Sacred Heart School of Theology and a student apprentice completing her master's in catechetical leadership from Notre Dame University. Now, as a spiritual director, I have narrowed my focus even more.

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