



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2017 Jubilee

Celebrating 50 years

First Profession—7/29/1967

Formerly Sister Colin Marie

Sister Kathy Ann Schmittgens, SSND

Sister Kathy Ann began her ministry as a teacher at three different Notre Dame High Schools: in Cape Girardeau from 1969 through 1971; in Quincy, Illinois through 1973; and in St. Louis until 1982. She moved to St. Francis Borgia High School in Washington, Missouri, for five years, then traveled to Sierra Leone, teaching in secondary schools from 1988 through 1993. Following another one year in St. Louis in congregational services and teaching, Sister Kathy Ann accepted a role as director for mission education in the San Diego Archdiocese. She remained in San Diego until 2003, returning to the Midwest as a provincial councilor for the former St. Louis Province until 2011. She then served two years in St. Louis as development director for the Province of Africa. In July 2015, she moved to Rome, working as a coordinator for the International Shalom Network, a ministry of justice and peace founded by the SSND congregation. She holds a bachelor's in chemistry with a minor in mathematics from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis. In 1978, she earned a master's of physical science from Emporia State University.



A memory I have to share...

How can you capture 50 years in one experience? Probably the most significant time in my life was my time serving in Africa. When you are far away from all that is familiar, you must dig deep inside to discover who you really are. I came to rediscover what it means to be a Christian in a mostly Muslim environment. I came to an appreciation of the connectedness we have as School Sisters in an area where there were not all that many of us. I widened my understanding of “our obligation and opportunities to develop a world vision and a sense of global responsibility.” (*You Are Sent #26*) I learned that I could live without what I had previously considered essentials, like electricity, running water and ice cream. The people of Sierra Leone taught me that there are other ways to think of the world and other ways to deal with problems. I hope I also taught them something of a wider world. All of these lessons have informed everything I have done since then: working in Mission Education in San Diego, serving on the Provincial Council and working development for Africa and now Rome. Everything I have said “yes” to has been a blessing!

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