



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2017 Jubilee

Celebrating 60 years
First Profession—8/3/1957

Sister Ancilla Marie Roussel, SSND

Sister Ancilla Marie began her education ministry in 1957, teaching Catholic high school students in Illinois, California, Texas and Louisiana. In 1969, she moved to the Dallas area. She served as a member of the formation team until 1973, then spent five years as an early childhood teacher at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. She spent six years in pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Tucson, Arizona, followed by a period as a parish administrator at Annunciation Church Parish in the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana. In 1994, Sister Ancilla Marie responded to a call to serve the congregation at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Mississippi, through 1997. She then returned to pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Lafayette. Following Hurricane Rita in 2005, she coordinated volunteers in the diocesan recovery efforts until 2008. She served in congregational roles and various duties at Notre Dame of Dallas through 2014, when she returned to Chatawa. She continues serving today as transportation coordinator and providing other community services at St. Mary of the Pines. Sister Ancilla Marie holds a bachelor's in history with a minor in education from Dominican College in Louisiana. In 1969, she earned a master's in secondary education and home economics from the University of Houston.



A memory I have to share...

I have enjoyed all the ministries in which I have been involved, from kindergarten teacher to volunteer coordinator in hurricane recovery. Perhaps, the one I found most enriching and enjoyable was pastoral ministry. I spent over 20 years in the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana, as a pastoral associate and a parish life coordinator. In this ministry, I was able to use varied skills in response to the needs of the people of the parish. There was the opportunity to share in their celebration, their hopes and fears, their difficulties and loss, and to walk with them on their journey. Building community is an important part of this ministry. When I became the parish life coordinator at Annunciation Parish in Duralde, Louisiana, we set goals at the parish assembly, and the number one goal was to remain a parish. They did not want to be absorbed into a larger parish. Keeping the community viable was primary. We were able to develop the parish, and I am happy to say that it still exists as an independent, active parish. I am still being enriched and enjoying my life as an SSND. The opportunity to serve others, to share in community life, and to develop spiritually fills me with gratitude and peace.

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