



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2017 Jubilee

Celebrating 60 years

First Profession—7/17/1957

Formerly Sister Virgine Marie

Sister Arlene Simon, SSND

Sister Arlene devoted her earliest ministry years as a primary grade teacher in Logansport, Indiana. From 1963 through 1979, she taught in numerous Catholic grade schools and high schools across Chicago including: All Saints, Academy of our Lady (Longwood), St. Stanislaus Kostka, Holy Trinity and Mother Guerin. She also taught biology at Academy of our Lady (Longwood). Sister Arlene moved to the Milwaukee area for several years of study and pastoral work. In 1983, she returned to Academy of Our Lady (Longwood) in Chicago, where she served for 10 years in various administrative roles. Called to Japan, she served in schools in Kyoto through 2002. She returned to Notre Dame of Elm Grove in 2005, serving on staff as a receptionist and switchboard operator through 2009. She continues to minister there in prayer and presence. She earned a bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and University of Illinois-Urbana. She also holds a master's in religious education from Aquinas College in Michigan.



A memory I have to share...

On June 26, 1956, Reception Day, after one year as Candidate Arlene Simon, wearing a crown of lilies and roses, I became Sister Virgine Marie, SSND. I treasure this as the happiest day of my life. The biblical Song of Songs came alive for me. Profession Day followed one year later, July 17, 1957. Having returned to my baptismal name, I am now known as Sister Arlene Simon, SSND. The mystical union with God has grown deeper, supported by this SSND religious way of life, a life of prayer, reading, silence, listening and pondering. Memories of my ministry include designing free-drawn bulletin boards, guiding high school girls in caring for hamsters and naming trees on the Longwood campus, and awakening children in Japan to the English-speaking world and to Jesus Christ. My undergraduate and graduate studies gave me the background I needed for teaching biology. Studies in theology provided a rounded background for my ministry. I am amazed that this was designed for me in great detail by a loving God. After a time of serious illness, I came to live in our retirement community at Notre Dame of Elm Grove. Here, I continue to thank God for the rich memories of my religious life. Memories of Japan are especially rich; walking through a bamboo forest, sharing customs with the Japanese Sisters, and envisioning God calling me from this earth through the orange Torii gate into the joy of the Lord. It has all been a very good life, the very best for me.

**Join us in celebrating our Jubilarian sisters.
Click the buttons below to:**