



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2017 Jubilee

Celebrating 60 years
First Profession—8/3/1957

Sister Dorez Mehrtens, SSND

Sister Dorez lived and served in Texas for most of the first 35 years of her ministry. Throughout the 1960s, she taught at St. Gregory School in Tyler, Texas. She served as principal for the next four years at St. Peter in Fort Worth, followed by several years as an education consultant for the Diocese of Dallas. From 1977 through 1985, she served the SSND congregation as provincial councilor for the former Dallas Province. Sister Dorez was then elected as provincial leader, serving through 1993. After a year of sabbatical she finished her certification for spiritual direction at The Center for Spiritual Development in Bird Island, Minnesota. She next went to Africa, where she spent 13 years, serving as a spiritual director for the Sunyani Diocese in Ghana for the first two years, followed by a leadership role as co-director of the SSND District of Africa novitiate for the rest of her time there. She returned to the U.S. in 2009, and continues full-time work as a retreat and spiritual director at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Mississippi. She earned a bachelor's in English with a minor in theology from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis, and a master's in administration from Ball State University.



A memory I have to share...

I have had many memorable experiences in my 60 years as an SSND. In all I met along the way, I saw the many faces of God, from the first graders I taught to the people in the various countries where I lived or visited. In first graders, I found the face of God alive, ready to engage life in whatever the day brought, embracing it with joy, and wonder. In my years in the Catholic school system, I witnessed the face of God's love for children, especially through their parents and teachers. Years in SSND leadership opened me to the face of God's faithfulness in our sisters all over the congregation. Their deep desire to be faithful to the ever-faithful God inspired me to ongoing faithfulness. Ministering in Africa, I experienced God's face of joy and suffering in all life brought to each day. I learned to recognize and experience God in the face of each one I met and saw their enduring trust in God. Now in my retreat ministry and in our retirement home I see the faces of those who long for God from deep within. In a special way, they teach me to see God from where I am. God's many faces speak to me of unconditional love. I will always be grateful for the many ways God has and will keep manifesting faithful love each day. This is what I celebrate this Jubilee Year.

Join us in celebrating our Jubilarian sisters.
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