



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2017 Jubilee

Celebrating 60 years

First Profession—8/3/1957

Formerly Sister Maris Stella

Sister Joan Moorhem, SSND

Sister Joan's initial assignment following her first profession of vows took her to the Los Angeles area, where she spent four years teaching at St. Paul High School. In 1963, she moved to Japan for language study, then accepted a position in Kyoto as a university instructor at Notre Dame Women's College, a position she held through 1984. Sister Joan returned to the United States, turning to social service ministries throughout the next two decades. She served around the Midwest, caring for Native Americans as well as women and families in crisis. Those roles included counseling and case management. In 2004, she ministered at the St. Louis Motherhouse, serving the congregation as a driver through 2009. She continued thereafter as a healthcare volunteer, for her own family member, as well as at St. Alexius Hospital and Senior Connections in St. Louis. Her current ministry encompasses part-time tutoring and pastoral volunteering, as well as prayer and presence with her SSND community. She holds a bachelor's in Latin from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis. She earned master's degrees in both English and theology, from Sacred Heart University and St. Louis University, respectively.



A memory I have to share...

When I reflect on my 60 years as an SSND, the Scripture text that comes into consciousness is Is. 54.2: "Enlarge the space of your tent." Of the many gifts I've received through SSND, the ongoing invitation and challenge to enter into new and wider experiences and to invite more and more people into the tent of my heart is the one for which I am most grateful. This is true of community in the diverse ways I've lived it: traditional or "back in the day" style when we observed common life and were all in the same ministry; inter-culturally in Japan for 18 years; inter-provincially; in a "community without walls;" and living singly with a community by connection. I am grateful. In ministry, too, my tent has been widened: teaching high school in the United States; teaching college in Japan; working with abused women and children; and ministering with immigrants and refugees. Volunteer experiences have given me the opportunity to learn from the people of South Korea, India, the Philippines and the Cherokee Nation. I now volunteer with the Guided Prayer movement and the Immigrant and Refugee Women's Program. I am grateful. Finally, in the past 10 years or so, my tent has been widening to embrace not only our human world, but all the beings with whom we share planet Earth. They, too, are the image of God for me and a celebration of our one-ness. I am grateful.

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