



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 Alonza Marie

Sister Lee Anne Farrell, SSND

Sister Lee Anne's first decades of ministry included teaching and administration positions in St. Louis; Houston; Caseyville, Ridgway and East St. Louis in Illinois; and West Hollywood, Florida. In 1980, she left classroom education to begin work in the field of addiction. For ten years, she worked with the Paraclete Fathers in Sunset Hills, Missouri, as an addiction counselor. From 1991 to 1999, she served as provincial councilor for the former St. Louis Province, and from 2001 until 2010, Sister Lee Anne was vice-president of women's services at Guest House in Lake Orion, Michigan, an addiction treatment center for women religious. She returned to St. Louis to accept a position as community leader at Theresa Center at Sancta Maria in Ripa. She continues ministry today as a part-time counselor and educator with the Paraclete Fathers and St. Louis Consultation Center. Sister Lee Anne received her bachelor's degree from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis and her master's in elementary education/administration from Barry University in Miami, Florida. She also holds master addiction credentials from the National Association of Drug and Alcohol Counselors.

A memory I have to share...

My Gratitude is great for a life of blessings and challenges under the care of a loving God. For 23 years, I had the privilege of educating youth in Missouri, Illinois, Texas and Florida. They were good years with great SSND role models who helped in my early formative years as an educator. 1980 was a watershed year for me. It was then that I was introduced to Bill Wilson - a meeting that would change the course of my life and turn my classroom from formal education into working with persons recovering from addictions. With the support of the SSND community, I went on to become a certified addiction counselor. For the past 37 years, I have worked with priests, brothers and women religious who have struggled with their own addictions to food, alcohol, gambling, spending, hoarding, etc. To be part of the individual's journey, as they realize it is not a moral weakness but truly a brain disease and that recovery is possible, is pure privilege. What may have once been looked upon as a curse in our lives, has become a marvelous blessing. We have realized that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves. My last full time ministry was as vice-president and program director at Guest House for Women Religious in Lake Orion, Michigan. As congregations have stressed the need for transformation in our lives, the experience of witnessing this happen in the lives of so many was truly exciting and gift. During an eight year period from 1991-1999, I served as provincial councilor and again felt the warmth and support as well as challenges from my SSND community. I am now privileged, in my semi-retirement days, to work with the Paraclete Fathers in their ministry with the priests and brothers who are in residential care and for various reasons related to their addictions are not able to return to active ministry. Another blessing for me. My 1980 watershed moment has given me an ever-growing awareness of the God of my understanding. My life as SSND is complemented and enriched by my friendship with Bill Wilson and his friends. Thank you, God. Thank you, SSND.



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