



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 Brigid Maureen

Sister Pat Dooley, SSND

Sister Pat taught elementary and middle school throughout her early ministry years. From 1958 through 1969, she lived and served around St. Louis, teaching at Our Lady of Loretto and St. Engelbert, and at Immaculate Conception in Dardenne, Missouri. Throughout the next 23 years, she served at schools in Illinois: St. Peter and St. Henry in Belleville, St. Francis Solanus in Quincy and St. Philip and St. Joseph in East St. Louis. She then went to Herrin, Illinois, as a director of religious education. Following further studies, she had roles within several social services organizations. During the flood of 1993 in St. Louis, Sister Pat worked with the Salvation Army. She later moved to the Chicago area where she worked in a shelter for abused women and children. Sister Pat turned to pastoral care in hospitals, including ministry as a hospice chaplain in St. Louis. She continued as a hospice chaplain throughout the early 2000s, eventually moving to part-time ministry at Bethesda-Dilworth in St. Louis. She presently assists at Sarah Community in Bridgeton helping other SSNDs, St. Patrick Center aiding homeless men and women in St. Louis and as a spiritual guide with individuals and in retreats. In 1960, she earned a bachelor's in history from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis. She holds a master's in elementary education from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Sister Pat also earned seven CPE unites at St. Luke's Hospital in St. Louis, and is certified as a spiritual guide through the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wisconsin.



Memories I have to share...

Gratitude rises up in me when I reflect on the opportunities SSND offered me to be trained as a hospice chaplain and later as spiritual guide. This training has opened up beautiful opportunities of serving the suffering, poor and broken hearted. Working as a hospice chaplain, ministering with the homeless and abused, and walking with those experiencing natural disasters, has deepened the conviction that God often weeps. Through these experiences and the training I received as SSND, my life has become the message "God loves you!" and I love every opportunity to be this message. As hospice chaplain, I was touched by the realization that each dying person expressed the desire to know that their life was important, that their life mattered and made a difference. As Salvation Army minister, it was a joy to help many people. I remember that with our help, one woman was able to find a home and furnish it. The sadness she experienced from losing all of her possessions in a flood was transformed as we helped her begin anew. What a joy! In ministry with abused women, I came to realize how fragile human nature is. These women appreciated the community of support that was formed as they recovered. Often, they in turn became a support to others. As spiritual guide to the homeless, I came to realize that each person wants to be visible, listened to and believed in. My skills as teacher were transferred to ministry with the suffering and the poor. My heart sings with gratitude.

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