



School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

**2017 Jubilee**

**Celebrating 70 years**

*First Profession—7/30/1947*

## **Sister MarieClare Powell, SSND**

*Sister MarieClare began teaching primary grade children in Conway, Arkansas following her first profession of vows in 1947. With a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a minor in English, followed by a master's degree in physics, she taught secondary school students in Louisiana, Illinois, Arkansas and Iowa. She was principal of Redemptorist High School in New Orleans. For the next 20 years, she headed the Special Projects office for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, with the emphasis of this office focusing on learning through information technology. At age 65, she began teaching English and video production to secondary and university students at the SSND's school and throughout the Diocese of Debrecen-Nyiregyhaza, Hungary. Since her return to the United States days before the turn of the century, she has been a member of the community of St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Mississippi. Along with serving the community there, she attended a United Nations Summit on the Information Society in Geneva. Sister MarieClare returned to Hungary to assist English teachers for a year, taught Vietnamese religious women in New Orleans and St. Louis, responded to a call to teach 70 young religious women in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and secured grants for Mississippi and Louisiana educational ministries. At the Generalate's request, she raised funds for international programs. Currently she is writing the story of a 19th century School Sister of Notre Dame, and volunteers with other SSNDs in teaching reading to primary public school children near Chatawa.*



### *A reflection I have to share...*

It is a mosaic that my many textured memories and experiences make. Each piece is anchored in working with others to master, and to assist others to master, the many facets of learning. For it is in approaching truth and Him who said, I am the Truth, that the human condition is enhanced and together we contribute to God's great design in our society. I am blessed in the experiences that led me to SSND. For it is our foundress who marked, "It is in the business of education that truth prevails." (4439) Truth was never more consequential than today, as many hold a view that truth is irrelevant and unimportant. Each memory, and each experience of guiding learners to truth brings satisfaction. It has been my privilege to lead in the search for truth as I sift for meaning, to assimilate, store and disseminate information. This I have done through many levels and varied material: primary grade children and university students; acolytes and bishops, in the physics, math, and literature classrooms, and on three continents. I look forward to building more memories and experiences as I continue to adapt my own and others' ideas, and to apply them with courage to our core identity. I am especially eager to mine our unused resources.

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