



2017 Jubilee

Celebrating 70 years
First Profession—7/15/1947

Sister Mary Joyce Pietsch, SSND

Sister Mary Joyce began teaching following her first profession in 1947. She spent two years at St. Matthew School in St. Paul followed by four years at St. Benedict School in Strasburg, North Dakota. She then moved to the state of Washington, teaching elementary students at Holy Family School in Clarkston and at Guardian Angel School in Colton. Beginning in 1960, she devoted nearly 50 years to serving her SSND community, on staff as provincial secretary of the Mankato Province, with additional responsibilities as accountant at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Minnesota. During those years, she also served as secretary for the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Leadership Conference for 11 years. Since 2009, she has continued serving the community part-time at Our Lady of Good Counsel, enjoying additional ministry in prayer and presence. She holds a bachelor's in English with a minor in history from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul. In 1958, she earned a master's in education from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.



Memories I have to share...

I have had many wonderful experiences as a School Sister of Notre Dame. Some of these experiences are because I learned shorthand, typing and accounting in high school. and have been able to use these skills as province secretary for 50 years. Because of that, I have had many wonderful opportunities to visit every North American province and region, including DeKalb, Illinois, Puerto Rico and Japan, taking minutes for the EC, the LC and the New Wineskins Board for 11 years, writing hundreds of obituaries, and 50 years of the *Province Chronicles*. I was also invited to the 1987 General Chapter in Rome as one of the secretaries. I also took minutes, not only within the province, but at the meetings of treasurers in the LCWR Region of Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Nebraska, where I met sisters from these other religious communities. All of these experiences have been so enriching. Though I have spent 57 years here at Good Counsel in Mankato, as provincial secretary for five councils, I have also come to know and love all the sisters of the former Mankato Province and many other sisters in the Central Pacific Province. For a very enriching life of 70 years as a School Sister of Notre Dame, I am grateful to God. It's been a wonderful life.

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