



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2017 Jubilee

Celebrating 75 years
First Profession—7/23/1942

Sister Gabriel Rooding, SSND

Sister Gabriel's initial teaching assignment following her first profession of vows was at St. Boniface grade school in Milwaukee, where she served until 1953. She continued teaching at grade schools around Milwaukee, including 12 years at Sts. Peter and Paul, from 1960 through 1972. She concluded over five decades of full-time elementary education at St. Agnes in Butler, Wisconsin, where she served through 1993. She remained at the parish to minister to the sick and elderly through 2009. Since that time, she has served in prayer and presence and worked daily to sew crafts for the gift shop at Notre Dame of Elm Grove. She earned a bachelor of philosophy degree in sociology with a minor in art from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee.

Memories I have to share...

My overall life as a religious was and is one of great joy and delightful happiness. As difficult as changes were for me over the years, once I was at my new assignment, the joys of community were continued. I understood that as long as I was happy in what I was doing, I was fine. The talents God gave me and developed in me made my life a great gift to share. I loved to do artwork, so sharing that gift was a joy for me as well as for the person receiving it. I was overjoyed when asked to design the stained glass church windows at St. Agnes in Butler. Teaching music, working with the boys choir and belonging to Bel Canto Chorus were the joys of music in my life. But being a Primary teacher topped all! I didn't quite realize how much the talent of sewing was a part of my life, but now as I look back, it was really a huge part. I mended and put back together our old habits, made priest and altar boy surplices, priest stoles, adult baptismal robes and costumes for our programs every year. It continues to be happiness every day as I sew for our Gift Shop. So, even at 94, there is so much to keep me enjoying religious life, always with happiness and satisfaction. God is, was and continues to be so very good to me. I think that my vocation was born when I was in second grade. Our wonderful teacher told us bible stories and introduced us to the lives of the saints. My very favorite saint was St. Tarcisius, who secretly carried Jesus to the Christians. Every day, as I walked home from school, I made it a point to have a private and intimate time with Jesus, hoping that He would use me to bring Him to others. To this day, Jesus and I still do this. It was a magnificent time of my life when I was in ministry to the sick and dying and indeed brought Jesus to so many.



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