



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2018 Jubilee

Celebrating 60 years
First Profession—7/31/1958

Sister M. Thomasette Pittari, SSND

Sister M. Thomasette was born in New Orleans, and has spent the majority of her decades of active ministry in the deep South. During the 1960s, she taught at several Catholic elementary schools: Immaculate Conception in her home diocese, St. Gregory in Tyler Texas, and St. Gerard Majella in Baton Rouge. From 1968-1975, she served as a high school teacher at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Mississippi. Sister Thomasette returned to New Orleans, helping to teach English and serve immigrants at the Archdiocesan Latin American Apostolate. Following a three-year period of congregational service in Chatawa, Sister Thomasette undertook prison ministry, serving in Oakdale, California, at the Bureau of prisons from 1986-1992. Similar posts followed over the next 15 years in the Texas towns of Texarkana, Fort Worth, Bastrop and Bryan, as well as in a medium security facility in Coleman, Florida, near Orlando. Sister Thomasette returned to adult education in 2008, serving through 2013 as a computer instructor for the Progressive Education Program in New Iberia, Louisiana. Following numerous volunteer roles across Houston, Texas schools and agencies through 2016, she returned to serve in prayer and presence at St. Mary of the Pines. Sister Thomasette earned a bachelor's degree in Latin from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis.



A memory I want to share...

I was a chaplain for the federal prison system for over 20 years. One day, I was in the middle of the famous Cuban prisoner riot of 1987 in Oakdale, Louisiana. I kept saying to myself, "This only happens on television. How can this be happening to me?"

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