



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2018 Jubilee

Celebrating 70 years
First Profession—8/6/1948

Sister Mary Joyce Merten, SSND

Sister Mary Joyce has answered the call to serve as an educator at every teaching level, as an administrator, and as a pastoral assistant for the elderly and homebound. From 1946-1961, she taught middle school students in the dioceses of Green Bay and La Crosse, Wisconsin, serving at: Our Lady of Lourdes in Marinette; St. John Nepomucene in Prairie du Chien and St. Mary in De Pere. For the next decade, she followed a missionary path, teaching in Guam for seven years at San Vicente (Barrigada) and four years at Notre Dame High School (Talofofo). Sister Mary Joyce returned to the U.S. in 1972, resuming her teaching ministry at St. Mary in Burlington, Wisconsin, through 1976. She accepted roles in high school administration, serving at Milwaukee's Messmer through 1982 and Notre Dame through 1989. While pursuing her doctorate degree, she began serving as a researcher at Marquette University, then as a part-time professor there and at Mount Mary University. Turning from full-time teaching in 1999, Sister Mary Joyce began a new ministry in pastoral administration for the sick, elderly and homebound parishioners at St. Mary in Burlington, serving there through 2012. She continues to reside in prayerful presence, having moved in 2016 from the SSND residence in Burlington to Notre Dame of Elm Grove. She completed her bachelor's degree in history at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and later finished a master's degree in biology from the University of Guam. In 1992, Sister Mary Joyce earned a doctorate degree in education-counseling/guidance from Marquette University in Milwaukee.



A memory I want to share...

As an SSND, I feel rooted in poverty and the love of God. The words “the best” and “the least” excite me, as they indicate all are God’s children. All of my experiences have given me a feeling of great goodness, love, peace and joy.

Join us in celebrating our Jubilarian sisters.
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