



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2019 Jubilee

Celebrating 60
First Profession—7/17/1959
Formerly Cynthia

Sister Annette Fernholz, SSND

Born in Bellingham, Minnesota, *Sister Annette* Fernholz has dedicated her ministry to students, rural citizens, and native populations across the Midwest. Following her first profession in Mankato, Minnesota, in 1959, she began teaching Catholic elementary school students around Minnesota and Iowa.

Assignments from 1960-1975, took her to: St. John the Baptist in Jordan, Minnesota; St. Francis in Buffalo, Minnesota; St. Mary in Waterloo, Iowa; St. Michael in Madison, Minnesota; St. Mary in Worthington, Minnesota; and St. Joseph in Cresco, Iowa. Turning her attention to social concerns, Sister Annette served the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, an educational and advocacy agency in Des Moines, Iowa, for five years. She returned to the classroom in 1980, serving in two schools before accepting a post at the Interprov Cherokee Project in Tablequah, Oklahoma, in 1984. She devoted four years to this service, returning to a similar role for the Ojibway nation at Red Lake, Minnesota, from 1989-1992. Then back to the farm she was raised on to care for her parents while establishing Earthrise Farm in Louisburg, Minnesota, as an ecological earth center of radical hospitality, earth learning and local food production. Earthrise Farm is now in its 23 year. Sister Annette earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the former Mount Mary College in Milwaukee. She holds a master's degree in ministry from Seattle University.



A memory I have to share...

I want to share a line from late poet, Mary Oliver, “when it’s over, I want to say: all my life I was a bride married to amazement.”

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