



School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2019 Jubilee

Celebrating 70  
First Profession—8/11/1949

## Sister Mary Alexius Portz, SSND

Born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, *Sister Mary Alexius* Portz made her first profession in Milwaukee in 1949. Her decades of ministry were devoted to music and education. Early assignments included roles as an elementary teacher and organist at St. Joseph in Galion, Ohio; St. Francis Xavier in Superior, Wisconsin; St. Joseph in Peoria, Illinois; and St. Mary in Greenville, Wisconsin. From 1959-1965, she taught at St. James in Grand Rapids, Michigan, followed by four years at Our Lady of Lourdes in Marinette, Wisconsin, and three years at St. John Nepomucene in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Sister Mary Alexius moved to Mequon, Wisconsin, serving the congregation as a musician and music teacher at Notre Dame of the Lake, a position she held for 10 years. From 1982-1990, she served at Visitation retirement home in Elm Grove, Wisconsin, as a musician and driver. She teaches music when she can at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Wisconsin, where she resides. Sister Mary Alexius graduated with a bachelor's degree in education from the former Mount Mary College in Milwaukee. She earned a second bachelor's degree in music and piano from the University of Northern Iowa.



### *A memory I have to share...*

Music was a big part of my SSND life. I practiced daily when I was in charge of liturgical music in Elm Grove. I often used my brother's arrangements of the Responsorial Psalm for Mass. My greatest joy was teaching children piano lessons.

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