

2020 Jubilee **Sister Ethel Marie Biri, SSND**

Sister Ethel Marie was born a twin in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. She made her first profession in St. Louis in 1970. From 1972 to 1974, she served as a teacher at Duchesne High School in St. Charles, Missouri. She moved to Illinois, with teaching assignments at Quincy Notre Dame High School in Quincy and St. Anthony in Effingham. From 1978 through 1983, Sister Ethel Marie served as regional religious education consultant at Northeast Catechetical Center in Edina, Missouri. Continuing as an adult religious education director, she relocated to St. Peter Catholic Church in Jefferson City, Missouri, followed by four years in a similar position at St. Christopher in Florissant, Missouri. Following a yearlong ministry in training and development with Kopljar Enterprises in St. Louis, Sister Ethel Marie returned to adult religious formation, teaching at the St. Paul VI Institute and as a college program associate director at Fontbonne College (now University) in St. Louis from 1993 to 1996. She was asked to return to the Diocese of Jefferson City, where she served as chancellor from 1996 through 2006. Following two years in pastoral service and religious education at St. Joseph in Farmington, she served the congregation as director of the SSND interprovincial novitiate through 2010. Sister Ethel Marie accepted a new position as director of lay ministry and formation for the Diocese of Owensboro in Kentucky, serving there through 2015. She returned to Missouri to help care for her parents in Perryville and assist with the parish school of religion at St. Augustine Campus in Belleville, Illinois. This ministry continued through early 2018. In 2019, Sister Ethel Marie assumed the role of full-time director of mission integration at the Sarah Community in Bridgeton, Missouri. She holds a bachelor's degree in theology and English from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis. She completed two masters' degrees: one in religious education from Seattle University in 1982, and a second in human resource training and development from Webster University in St. Louis, in 1992.



A memory I have to share...

Much of my time as chancellor involved ministry with victims of abuse. I was most aware, in that ministry, of how God invites one to cooperate with God's will, whether difficult or delightful, and the deep joy that flows from doing God's will.

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