Sister Mary Gilda was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin. She made first profession in Milwaukee in 1945. She served decades as a teacher and in congregational services, which included ministry in Rome. Early assignments across Wisconsin included the Catholic grade schools of St. Michael in Milwaukee, Holy Angels in West Bend, Our Lady of Lourdes in Rice Lake, St. John Baptist in Bloomer, and Holy Rosary in Darlington. From 1970 to 1974, Sister Gilda served as receptionist at the SSND Generalate in Rome. The late 1970s through 1980s included more teaching assignments, as she traveled to; St. Malachy in Horicon, Wisconsin; Holy Childhood in Harbor Springs, Michigan; St. Joseph in Wautoma, Wisconsin, where she also served in parish ministry through 1985; and St. Stanislaus in Berlin, Wisconsin. Throughout the next 15 years, Sister Mary Gilda dedicated herself to serving on staff and as coordinator of hospitality for Milwaukee Provincial Motherhouse and Notre Dame of Elm Grove (NDEG), Elm Grove, Wisconsin. This was followed by a one-year assignment of service in Rome. For the past 15 years, Sister Gilda has resided in prayerful presence at NDEG. In 1952, she earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Mount Mary College (now University) in Milwaukee.

A memory I have to share...
The most memorable experiences I had were the prayer days our provincial leader at the time held in parts of the province for us to come together and pray. Another gift was when I traveled to Rome and actually touched the roots of our community.