Sister Mary grew up in Mankato, Minnesota, and made her first profession there in 1945. In her many decades of ministry, she devoted herself to teaching, rural life ministry and environmental concerns. Early assignments in her home state included teaching in three Catholic high schools: St. Anthony, Lismore, 1945 to 1947; St. Matthew, St. Paul, 1947 to 1950; and St. Michael, St. Michael, 1950 to 1955. Sister Mary spent the next decade in administration at Notre Dame High School in Cresco, Iowa, followed by 10 years at Grace High School in Fridley, back in Minnesota. Turning to rural life issues, Sister Mary worked with the Minnesota Catholic Rural Life Conference from 1976 through 1984. Following two years of serving in rural ministries around Mankato, Minnesota, she accepted a post as a director of the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry (CESRM) in Mankato. From 2002 through 2014, she volunteered in parish ministry at St. John the Baptist in Jordan, Minnesota. She continues to serve the congregation as a volunteer at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minnesota. Sister Mary earned a bachelor’s degree in English from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, followed by a master’s degree in education from St. Louis University.

A memory I have to share...
I’m inspired by educators who speak on rural issues for Minnesota Catholic Conference in order to help farmers and other rural people speak for themselves about issues that concern them most when they come before legislators and other people of power.