

Celebrating 80

First Profession—8/2/1940

Formerly Maxine

2020 Jubilee

Sister Irene Kalapinski, SSND

Sister Irene was born in Detroit. In 1940, she professed first vows in St. Louis. Most of her active ministry decades were spent in teaching across the Midwest and the South. Catholic grade schools served during the 1940s included: St. Michael in St. Louis; St. Joseph in Farmington, Missouri; and St. Francis Solanus in Quincy, Illinois. She performed community service at the Academy of Notre Dame in Belleville, Illinois, and St. Elizabeth Day Nursery in St. Louis. Sister Irene served at schools in Louisiana and Texas throughout the 1950s, including St. Gerard Majella in Baton Rouge and Christ the King in Corpus Christi. Back in the Midwest, assignments over the next three decades included: St. Liborius and St. Gabriel the Archangel in St. Louis; Sacred Heart, Rich Fountain, Missouri; St. Mary and Sacred Heart in Fort Madison, Iowa; St. Henry in Belleville, Illinois; and St. Francis Borgia in Washington, Missouri. From 1983 through 1990, Sister Irene served as an occupational therapy aide at Villa Gesu, the congregation's retirement home in St. Louis. She continued in community service and volunteered at Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis from 1990 to 2014, both as postmistress and in handcrafting artwork. Sister Irene now resides in prayerful presence at Veronica House in Bridgeton, Missouri. She holds a bachelor's degree in art from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis.



A memory I have to share...

Teaching art to all the students at St. Gabriel grade school holds wonderful memories. Each level was fun and challenging. The most interesting projects were with the eighth graders making life size paper mache animals or floor-to-ceiling murals.

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