2021 Jubilee - Celebrating 60

First Profession–7/31/1961

Sister Leah Marie Couvillion, SSND

Sister Leah Marie *was born in Simmesport, Louisiana, and in 1961, made first profession in St. Louis. In 1963, she received a bachelor's degree in Spanish from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis. She began her ministry in Texas, teaching at St. Gerard High School, San Antonio, and Mt. Carmel High School, Houston. She received a master's degree in Spanish from the University of Houston in 1971. That same year, she went to New Orleans, teaching at Sacred Heart High School and then serving in pastoral ministry and as a language instructor for the Archdiocese of New Orleans Latin American Apostolate. Beginning in 1979, she served in pastoral ministry at Holy Redeemer, Odesssa, Texas, for five years before serving at St. Therese, Jackson, Mississippi, as a pastoral associate. During this time, Sister Leah Marie received a master's degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University, New Orleans. In 1985, she went to Mexico, serving as a pastoral associate at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in El Porvenir, Mije, Oaxaca, for 11 years. After returning to the United States, she served in ministry to the Hispanic community for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and in ministry to refugees for Catholic Social Services, Dallas. Sister Leah Marie traveled to Pakistan in 2000, spending two years at the Convent of Jesus and Mary in Lahore, teaching, studying and in discernment as to a permanent assignment. From 2002 to 2007, she served as pastoral associate for St. Henry's Parish, Buckeye, Arizona, and from 2007 to 2010, served in ministry to the Hispanic poor at Malta Park, New Orleans. Recently, she has served as secretary for the Office of Religious Education, Laredo, Texas, and as administrative assistant to the vice president at the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio.*

A memory I have to share...

As a child, I dreamed of becoming a foreign missionary. After formation in Chatawa and St. Louis, I taught and did parish work in various states. Then the dream came true: Oaxaca, Mexico, for 11 years and Pakistan. Thanks, SSND, for the joy.

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