

2021 Jubilee - Celebrating 60

First Profession—7/31/1961

Formerly Consolette

Sister Mary Beth Reissen, SSND

Sister Mary Beth is originally from Belleville, Illinois, and made first profession in 1961, in St. Louis. That same year, she received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, and began teaching at Sacred Heart Elementary School, Lawrence, Nebraska. After teaching at Sacred Heart for one year, she was sent to teach physics and chemistry at Notre Dame High School, Quincy, Illinois. In 1970, she earned a master's degree in chemistry for teachers from the former University of Missouri-Rolla (now the Missouri University of Science and Technology), and in 1971, began teaching at Notre Dame High School, St. Louis. She taught at the school until 1975 and then was sent to intern with the Washington, D.C.-based NETWORK religious lobby (now Catholic Social Justice Lobby) where she focused on ocean-related issues. From 1976 to 1980, she was associate director for the Ocean Education Project, Washington, D.C. In 1981, Sister Mary Beth was program assistant for the Center of Concern's Tenth Anniversary Celebration in Washington, D.C. Later in 1981, the Council of Pax Christi International Catholic Peace Movement appointed her Pax Christi International Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) representative at United Nations (UN) Headquarters, where she served for nine years. She earned a master's degree in international affairs from American University, Washington, D.C., in 1985. That same year, she was elected president of the NGO Committee on Disarmament at UN Headquarters. She also served as that organization's education and outreach coordinator from 1991 to 1992. In 1992, she was awarded a fellowship to the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts, where she received a master's degree in law and diplomacy in 1995. As a Fletcher doctoral student, she received a United States Department of State research fellowship to study arms control verification in The Hague and Vienna, and was research assistant to Fletcher faculty. She received a doctorate degree in international relations from Tufts University in 2003. Sister Mary Beth has been an adjunct professor at Webster University and Washington University in St. Louis, and serves on the boards of the St. Louis chapter of the United Nations Association-USA and the Peace Economy Project.



A memory I have to share...

My 1977 piece entitled, "The Romance of the Manganese Nodule," about the mineral resource randomly strewn about the seabed beyond national jurisdiction, was useful in advocating at the Law of the Sea Conference for the just sharing of this 'Common Heritage of (Hu)Mankind' resource.

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