

2021 Jubilee - Celebrating 70

First Profession—7/31/1951

Sister Mary Johnalyn Witkowski, SSND

Sister Mary Johnalyn was born in Milwaukee and made first profession there in 1951. Her first ministry was at St. Stanislaus, Michigan City, Indiana, where she taught for one year. From 1951 to 1958, she taught in Milwaukee schools, including St. Cyril and Methodius, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Mary Czestochowa. In 1958, she spent three years teaching at St. Adalbert, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and then returned to Wisconsin, spending the early 1960s to the mid-1970s teaching at St. Stanislaus, Berlin; St. Agnes, Butler; St. Henry, Watertown; St. John Vianney, Brookfield; Bruce-Guadalupe School, Milwaukee; and DePorres Consol Catholic School, Milwaukee. During this time, Sister Mary Johnalyn received a bachelor's degree in history from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee, and a master's degree in education from St Francis College, Fort Wayne, Indiana. From 1975 to 1979, she served as a staff member at Marine View Nursing Home, Milwaukee. She then went to Mexico, teaching English at St. Irene Chapel and at St. Vincent Orphanage, both in Mexico City, and at the Generalate of Workers of the Holy Family, Zamora.



Sister Mary Johnalyn returned to Wisconsin in 1984, serving as a nursing assistant at Notre Dame Health Care Center, Elm Grove. After a sabbatical, she returned to Mexico, teaching English and serving as a nursing assistant at Bishop Jose Abraham Nursing Home, Tacambaro. In 1986, she went to Gurabo, Puerto Rico, serving as a nursing assistant at Villa Notre Dame. She returned to Milwaukee in 1988, serving in health care at Guadalupan Hispanic Center, Villa Clement and Marine View Nursing Home. She went back to Mexico for a third time, teaching English at Fernando Baeza Junior High School, Yoquivo, for one year. In 1991, she came back to Milwaukee and spent the early to mid-1990s as a switchboard operator, receptionist and a member of the communications staff for the former Milwaukee province. In 1995, she briefly spent time in community service at the Generalate in Rome. From 1997 to 2007, she was an assistant in the printing department for the former Milwaukee province and then spent one year helping proofread the translated letters of SSND foundress, Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger. Since 2010, Sister Mary Johnalyn resides in prayer and presence at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove.

A memory I have to share...

Working in Mexico, I was able to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and see Madre María close up at eye level! While in Poland, I was privileged to be in the presence of Our Lady of Czestochowa, attending Holy Mass.

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