



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

2022 Jubilee

Sister Barbara Soete, SSND

First Profession - January 1, 1997 | Celebrating 25 Years



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A memory I have to share...

The most rewarding experience of my life in SSND was the opportunity to teach for 15 years in the country of Nepal. The Nepali people's simplicity of life and contentment with little was a remarkable exemplar and personal challenge.



Sister Barbara Soete was born in St. Louis and originally entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1961. She received a bachelor's degree in English from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis in 1965. After receiving her degree, Sister Barbara taught English for three years, two at Teutopolis High School, Teutopolis, Illinois, and one at Rosary High School, St. Louis. She left the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1968 and taught junior high English at Paiute Elementary School, Scottsdale, Arizona, for one year. She then returned to St. Louis, earning a master's degree in social work from St. Louis University and working as a group worker and a community development worker at Fellowship Center, a settlement house in downtown St. Louis. After working at Fellowship Center for seven years, she returned to the classroom, teaching English for two years at St. Jerome Elementary School, St. Louis. She then became the school's principal, a position she held for five years. During that time Sister Barbara received a master's degree in secondary administration from the University of Missouri, St. Louis. She then spent the next seven years as an educational consultant with an Apple Computer dealership, helping school districts in St. Louis City and St. Louis County implement computer education. She returned to teaching, working for two years at Ascension School, Normandy, Missouri. Sister Barbara reentered the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1994 and professed first vows for the second time in 1997. After profession, Sister Barbara served as the principal at St. Engelbert Focus School in St. Louis; as a member of the editorial staff for the Review for Religious Office, St. Louis; as principal at Rock Creek Grant School, Bullhead, South

Dakota; and as a teacher at Pine Hill School, Pine Hill, New Mexico. She spent 15 years teaching English and coordinating the science program for class 11 and 12 students at Notre Dame Secondary School in Bandipur, Nepal, before returning to the United States in 2020. Currently Sister Barbara is teaching English to Vietnamese sisters from the Dominican Sisters of Go Vap and volunteering at the Humane Society of Missouri.