



School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province

# 2022 Jubilee

## Sister Ruth Emke, SSND

*First Profession - June 11, 1972 | Celebrating 50 Years*



**Sister Ruth Emke** was born in St. Charles, Missouri, and in 1972 made first profession in St. Louis. In 1973 she received a bachelor's degree in American studies from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis. That same year, she began her ministry teaching at St. Marianne de Paredes, Pico Rivera, California. After teaching there for three years, she returned to St. Louis to teach at Our Lady of Perpetual Help for one year. She then went to Sierra Leone, West Africa, where she taught at Siaka Stevens Commercial Secondary School from 1977 to 1984. She returned to the United States and studied at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, where she received a master's degree in theological studies with a concentration in world mission. She was engaged in community service at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis before returning to Sierra Leone where she began pastoral work in Mange Bureh while the convent there was readied for occupancy. She was parish administrator at Our Lady of the Rosary, Mange Bureh for six years. As civil war escalated, Sister Ruth, along with other sisters, fled Sierra Leone and returned to the United States. She assisted in the Senior Resources Office, St. Louis, and the St. Augustine Wellston Center, Wellston, Missouri, for one year. She returned to Africa for a third time in 1996, teaching at Port Loko Catholic Secondary School, Port Loko, Sierra Leone. She served on the leadership team for the former School Sisters of Notre Dame district of

Africa. As civil war intensified again, Sister Ruth left Sierra Leone and traveled to Ghana where she assisted at the Orthopedic Training Centre, Nsawam. In 2000 she returned to St. Louis and served for 11 years as the development director for the Province of Africa. From 2012 to 2018 she was community leader at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis. Since 2018 Sister Ruth has been serving as parish office manager at St. Bernadette, St. Louis.

## Celebrate Our Jubilarians

Share a  
Story

Send  
eCard

Honor a  
Sister

### *A memory I have to share...*

I love that we are an international community and cherish all the times I've had the opportunity to meet SSND from other cultures and countries. I am especially grateful for the time I spent ministering in Sierra Leone and Ghana!

