



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

2022 Jubilee

Sister Karen M. Thein, SSND

Formerly Mary Emmagene

First Profession - July 17, 1962 | Celebrating 60 Years



Sister Karen M. Thein is originally from Clara City, Minnesota, and in 1962 made first profession in Mankato, Minnesota. She received a bachelor's degree in Latin and Spanish from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee in 1964. That same year she began teaching Latin and Spanish at Trinity High School, Dickinson, North Dakota, where she remained until 1968. She taught Spanish for one year at Don Bosco High School, Gilbertville, Iowa, and for three years at Loyola High School, Mankato, Minnesota. She then received certification in religious education from Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington, and spent one year teaching at Our Lady of Good Counsel Academy, Mankato, Minnesota. In 1973 Sister Karen was missioned to Nahualá, Sololá, Guatemala, as a catechist and pastoral minister. She spent the following 14 years teaching English at Colegio San Bernardino, Patzún, Guatemala. After returning to the United States, she obtained a corporate ministry certificate at St. Louis University, St. Louis. In 1996 she received a master's degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University, New Orleans. After receiving her master's degree, Sister Karen served in Latino ministry at St. Joseph, Elgin, Illinois; St. Theodore, Albert Lea, Minnesota; St. Peter and Paul, Rockford, Illinois; Cathedral of

the Epiphany, Sioux City, Iowa; St. Mary, Marshalltown, Iowa; and St. Mary, Worthington, Minnesota. After a sabbatical she was missioned to St. Cecilia, Kennett, Missouri, as a pastoral associate for the Latino community. Since 2016 Sister Karen has served as pastoral minister to the tri-parishes in Cuba, Steelville and Bourban, Missouri.

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A memory I have to share...

I want to "knit" my memories together. I am grateful to be one with sisters in our international congregation. I lived, taught, learned and ministered in different cultures and languages here and in other countries. My world expands as a SSND.

