



2022 Jubilee

Sister Marie Vianney Bilgrien, SSND

First Profession - July 31, 1962 | Celebrating 60 Years



Sister Marie Vianney Bilgrien is originally from Marshfield, Wisconsin, and in 1962 professed first vows in Mequon, Wisconsin. She began her ministry in 1963, teaching at St. Leo, Milwaukee. She received a bachelor's degree in history from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee in 1964. From the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s she taught in Wisconsin schools, including St. Charles Borromeo, Chippewa Falls; St. Malachy, Horicon; St. Francis Xavier, Superior; and Michael Community School, Milwaukee. During this time Sister Marie Vianney received a master's degree in communication arts from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana. For five years she taught at Immaculate Conception, Clarksdale, Mississippi. From 1980 to 1982 she ministered to the poor in various locations throughout La Paz, Bolivia. After returning to the United States she was engaged in community service at Notre Dame of the Lake, Mequon, Wisconsin, and at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Sister Marie Vianney went to Central America in 1983, ministering to 120 orphans at Casa Feliz San Lucas, San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala. She remained in Guatemala for two years, returning to the United States in 1983 to study at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago where she received a master's degree in theology in 1987. Sister Marie Vianney then went to New York where she served in Hispanic pastoral ministry for the Diocese of Albany for five years. Beginning in 1992 she was a student at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome where she received a doctorate in moral theology in 1994. When she returned to the United States, she went to Madras,

Oregon, where she ministered to the Hispanic population through the Office of Hispanic Ministry for seven years. Starting in the early 2000s she also served part time in post-secondary education, teaching at Greco Institute of Theology, Shreveport, Louisiana; at Tepeyac Institute, El Paso, Texas; and at Loyola University, New Orleans. Since 2017 Sister Marie Vianney is a faculty member at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, El Paso, Texas; and at the Graduate Theology Foundation, Mishawaka, Indiana.

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A memory I have to share...

I ministered in Wisconsin, Louisiana, New York, Oregon, Texas, Bolivia and Guatemala – where I ran an orphanage for three years. Thirty-five years later former orphans tracked me down, and I visited 60-70 of them. We hugged and cried. Love abounded.

