



2022 Jubilee

Sister M. Maris Simon, SSND

First Profession - July 17, 1952 | Celebrating 70 Years



Sister M. Maris Simon was born in Altura, Minnesota, and in 1952 professed first vows in Mankato, Minnesota. She spent the early years of her ministry teaching in Minnesota schools, including Crucifixion, LaCrescent; Holy Childhood, St. Paul; All Saints, Madison Lake; St. Casimir, Winona; and St. Martin, Rogers. In 1962 Sister Maris received a bachelor's degree in music from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she taught at St. Michael, Morgan, Minnesota, for two years and then went to North Dakota where she taught at St. Mary, New England, for two years. She returned to Minnesota in 1966 and served as liturgist at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato for six years. During this time Sister Maris received a master's degree in music from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis. During the early 1970s she was an administrative associate at Mount Mary College, Mankato; a member of the mission office staff for the former Mankato Province; and a pastoral minister for Pax Christi, Rochester. In 1974 Sister Maris went to Africa where she served as administrator and teacher at St. Francis Upgrading Centre, Kisii, Kenya. After serving in Kenya for three years, she returned to the United States where she studied theology for one year at Washington Theological Union, Washington, D.C. She returned to Africa in 1978 to teach at Ikot Etuk Udo Secondary School, Ikot Ekpene, Nigeria, remaining there until 1979. After serving again as liturgist at Our Lady of Good Counsel for one year, she spent 1980 to 1985 assisting with initial and on-going formation for the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, Kisii, Kenya. She served as a liturgist from 1985 to 1989 at St. Stanislaus, Winona, Minnesota, and in pastoral ministry from 1989 to 1992 at St.

Francis Xavier, Sartell, Minnesota. She

spent the later years of her ministry back in Africa, serving as vocations director and assisting with initial formation for interprovincial formation, Kisumu, Kenya; pastoral minister at Sacred Heart Dagoretti, Nairobi, Kenya; and a teacher for the novitiate community, Sunyani, Ghana. Sister Maris came back to Minnesota in 2015 and now resides in prayer, presence and service at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato.

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A memory I have to share...

I loved teaching at all levels, but my most positive yet challenging memories are from my interaction with our women in formation, first at Good Counsel just after Vatican II and then in the African countries of Kenya and Ghana.

