



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

2023 Jubilee

Sister Dawn Achs, SSND

First Profession - January 7, 1973 | Celebrating 50 Years



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A memory I have to share...

The gospel read at my final vows was Jesus inviting Peter to get out of the boat and come to him on the water. The homilist challenged me to never be afraid to get out of the boat. That challenge has followed me to this day.

Sister Dawn Achs is a native of St. Louis, and professed first vows there in 1973. That same year, she received a bachelor's degree in American studies from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, and began teaching at St. Louis Catholic School in Nokomis, Illinois. After teaching at St. Louis for a short time, Sister Dawn taught for one year at St. Joseph, Ridgway, Illinois. From 1974 to 1981, she ministered at St. Mary's Special School, St. Louis, as a teacher and staff member. She served as an administrator for special education at East St. Louis Deanery, East St. Louis, Illinois, from 1981 to 1986. It was during this time that she received a master's degree in special education from Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee. From 1986 to 1988, she served as the administrator for special education for the Diocese of Belleville, Belleville, Illinois, before becoming the director of ongoing formation for the Growth and Integration Forum, St. Louis. She was the administrator at St. Engelbert and an education consultant for Epiphany School, both in St. Louis, before being called to Rome. From 1997 to 2000, Sister Dawn served as the director of communications and public relations at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Generalate. From 2000 to 2006, she served as an administrator, first at St. Ann School, Normandy, Missouri, and then at St. Catherine Laboure School,

St. Louis. In 2006, she went to Texas where she served as an associate superintendent for the Diocese of Victoria. After serving there for two years, she served as an associate superintendent for the Diocese of Dallas. Since 2019, Sister Dawn has been serving as a provincial councilor for the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province.

