



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

2023 Jubilee

Sister Rose Rita Huelsmann, SSND

Formerly Cyra

First Profession - August 2, 1963 | Celebrating 60 Years



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A memory I have to share...

Meeting up with four SSND together in Rome, each from a different country, to study the life of St. Augustine is a treasured memory from my life as a School Sister of Notre Dame. Context and internationality deepened my understanding of church.

Sister Rose Rita Huelsmann was born in Breese, Illinois, and in 1963, she professed first vows in St. Louis. In 1965, she received a bachelor's degree in American studies from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis. She spent the first years of her ministry teaching at St. John Nepomuk, St. Louis; St. Barbara, St. Louis; St. Francis Solanus, Quincy, Illinois; and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Louis. In 1974, Sister Rose Rita received a master's degree in guidance counseling from Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas. That same year, she went to St. Gertrude in Krakow, Missouri, serving as a teacher, guidance counselor, coordinator of religious education and principal. After spending four years at St. Gertrude, she went to Notre Dame Elementary School in St. Louis, where she served as principal for three years. From 1981 to 1986, she taught at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Indio, California. During the late 1980s through the mid-1990s, Sister Rose Rita ministered as a housemother at Boys Hope/Girls Hope, St. Louis, a Jesuit program for living and learning. Following that ministry, she served as co-community leader at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis. She then served as a missionary in El Progreso, Honduras, where she founded Casa Margarita, a home for older girls from the area's orphanage. Sister Rose Rita began the 2000s as principal at St. Bruno in Pinckneyville, Illinois. After serving at St.

Bruno for four years, she ministered at Criminal Justice Ministry in St. Louis.

She also served as director for the temporary professed for the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province. Since 2021, Sister Rose Rita has been serving as hospitality coordinator at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, and provides spiritual direction for retreats throughout the St. Louis area.

