



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

2023 Jubilee

Sister Gladys Schmitz, SSND

Formerly Susan

First Profession - July 19, 1953 | Celebrating 70 Years



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A memory I have to share...

Through the encouragement of Margaret Ellen Traxler, SSND, I moved to Chicago, where my nursing ministry gradually changed to social justice issues. My efforts further evolved toward the teaching of Gospel non-violence, especially in church settings.

Sister Gladys Schmitz was born in Mankato, Minnesota, and in 1947, she received a bachelor's degree in mathematics and chemistry from the College of St. Teresa, Winona, Minnesota. She professed first vows in Mankato, in 1953, and then began teaching at St. Agnes in St. Paul, Minnesota. She remained at St. Agnes until 1959, and then went to St. Peter in New Haven, Iowa, where she taught for two years. After St. Peter, Sister Gladys taught at St. Mary in New England, North Dakota, until 1963. That year, she received a master's degree in chemistry from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana. For the remainder of the 1960s, she taught at the Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, and at Don Bosco High School, Gilbertville, Iowa. Beginning in 1969, Sister Gladys turned her ministry toward nursing, serving as a nurse's aide at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, and for Temporary Services, St. Paul. She enrolled at Austin Community College (now Riverland Community College), Austin, Minnesota, and received an associate's degree in nursing in 1974. Starting in the mid-1970s, she was a registered nurse in the Chicago area, serving at Jackson Park Hospital, Illinois Central Hospital, St. Anne's Hospital, Oak Park Hospital and St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital. In 1982, Sister Gladys helped Sister

Anne Mayer, SSND, open SisterHouse, a home to rehabilitate women who had served time in prison.

She was also engaged as a volunteer at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato. Beginning in 1993, she served with the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation office, Mankato, for 27 years. Currently, Sister Gladys is serving in prayer and presence at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato.

