



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

2023 Jubilee

Sister Louise Marie Benecke, SSND

Formerly Louis Marie

First Profession - July 31, 1953 | Celebrating 70 Years



Sister Louise Marie Benecke is from Shrewsbury, Missouri, and in 1953, she professed first vows in St. Louis. After profession, she was sent to teach at St. Aloysius in St. Louis, and then at St. Anthony in Effingham, Illinois. From 1955 to 1968, she was health care coordinator at Madonna Manor, Marrero, Louisiana. While missioned at Madonna Manor, she spent a short time at St. Elizabeth Day Nursery, St. Louis, received a bachelor's degree in theology from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, and obtained an R.N. from Mercy Hospital, New Orleans. In 1971, she completed the nurse practitioner master's degree program at St. Louis University in St. Louis. Missioned to Indian Health Service Hospital in Fort Defiance, Arizona, she ministered as nurse educator and then as director of nursing until she transitioned to leadership of the associate degree nursing program at Navajo Community College, Tsaile, Arizona. She continued ministering in the area through a pastoral ministry position at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Page, Arizona. Beginning in 1977, she served as nurse educator for the Arizona Regional Medical Program and Catholic Charities in Phoenix. Sister Louise Marie was then sent to Hodeidah, Yemen, to serve as coordinator of the Catholic Relief Services health and nutrition program. In 1981, she returned to the United States and began Hispanic ministry in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas, where she coordinated Brownsville Clinic. She then opened an office and trained the nursing staff for Valley Home Health in Pharr, Texas, and taught at Rio Grande College in Edinburg, Texas. In 1985, she worked with The King's Ranch Hospital and participated in the nurse practitioner continuing education and renewal program at Corpus Christi State University (now Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi). In 1986, Sister Louise Marie returned to the Navajo reservation as nurse practitioner educator for Chinle Nursing Home, Chinle Home for Special Needs Children, and Chinle High School, all in Chinle, Arizona. She moved to St. Anne's Mission, Klagehoh, Arizona, in 1991, to work with Northland Pioneer College in extending the certified nursing assistant program to Hopi tribal land. She returned to Missouri in 1996, serving as nurse practitioner for The Kitchen Clinic in Springfield, and at La Clinica in St. Louis. She also served as developer and coordinator for Migrant Whole Health Outreach in Kennett, Missouri. In 2010, she served in migrant border ministry in Douglas, Arizona, and served as nurse practitioner for the Wings of Angels Clinic in Aqua Prieta, Mexico. From 2012 to 2016, she ministered in the St. Louis area as a parish nurse and as a volunteer ombudsman for VOYCE. In 2016, Sister Louise Marie transitioned to Veronica House, The Sarah Community in Bridgeton, Missouri, where she now resides and ministers in prayer and presence.

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A memory I have to share...

My soul rejoices for gifts received from varied and multi-cultural ministries in the United States and in the Middle East. Experiences of surrogate motherhood, awareness of sacred connectedness with all created beings, universal related personhood...fullness of life shared and received. Thank you, God of love!

