



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

2023 Jubilee

Sister Mary Joyce Merten, SSND *First Profession - August 8, 1948 | Celebrating 75 Years*



Sister Mary Joyce Merten was born in Burlington, Wisconsin. She began teaching in 1946, at Our Lady of Lourdes in Marinette, Wisconsin, where she remained for one year. In 1948, she made first profession in Milwaukee, and then started teaching at St. John Nepomucene, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. She taught at St. John Nepomucene for 11 years before going to St. Mary in DePere, Wisconsin, where she taught for two years. In 1961, Sister Mary Joyce received a bachelor's degree in history and English from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she went to Guam, where she taught at San Vicente Catholic School, Barrigada, for seven years and at Notre Dame High School, Talofofo, for four years. While in Guam, she received a master's degree in marine biology from the University of Guam. Sister Mary Joyce returned to the United States in 1972, and remained in Wisconsin for the remainder of her ministry. She taught for four years at St. Mary, Burlington, before becoming an associate administrator at Messmer High School, Milwaukee. She served at Messmer for six years and then moved into an associate administrator position at Notre Dame High School, Milwaukee. She remained at Notre Dame High School for seven years, serving as the school's administrator for four years. In 1989, she began studying, conducting research and serving as a teaching assistant at Marquette University, Milwaukee, receiving a doctorate in counseling in 1992. Throughout the 1990s, Sister Mary Joyce taught at Marquette University and

Mount Mary University, Milwaukee. Beginning in 1999, she served for 13 years as a pastoral associate to the sick, elderly, homebound and those in hospice at St. Mary, Burlington, Wisconsin. She then served as an on-call chaplain at Aurora Medical Center, Burlington. During her lifetime, she received seven National Science Foundation Grants. Since 2016, Sister Mary Joyce has been serving in prayer and presence, first at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin, and now at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee.

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A memory I have to share...

I am thankful for the SSND community. I'm very grateful for my time spent at Marquette University. SSND approved my studying for my doctorate. Because of my doctorate, I was able to teach in the graduate program at Mount Mary University.

