



2024 Jubilee

First Profession • August 1, 1964

Celebrating 60 years

SISTER ELISE SILVESTRI, SSND

Sister Elise Silvestri was born in St. Louis and professed first vows in 1964 in St. Louis. She studied at Notre Dame College, St. Louis, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in history in 1966. Sister Elise taught junior high at St. Francis Borgia, Washington, Missouri, during her last semester (1966); and at St. Francis de Sales, St. Louis (1966-71). She served as administrator of elementary education at Sacred Heart, Effingham, Illinois (1971-74); before becoming a part-time guidance counselor and teacher at St. Francis Borgia High School, Washington, Missouri (1974-78). In 1974, Sister Elise earned a Master of Arts in guidance and counseling from the University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri. She then held dual roles in counseling and teaching at Notre Dame High School, St. Louis (1978-81); and was the Director of Affiliates for the former St. Louis Province, St. Louis, (now Central Pacific Province) (1979-81). Sister Elise then served as Director of Religious Education at the following parishes in Illinois: St. Michael, Paderborn, and St. James, Millstadt (1981-84), and St. Francis Solanus, Quincy (1984-87). She also served as Director of Adult Religious Education at St. Cecilia, Glen Carbon, IL (1987-91). Ministry to women then became her focus: she spent weekends at the Women's Crisis Center, Belleville, for one year, then, with the influx of refugees to the St. Louis area, she began the Immigrant & Refugee Women's Program, an in-home English language tutoring program, a service she founded and directed from 1996-2006 in which she enlisted and trained women volunteers to teach English to refugee women, one on one, in the privacy of the refugee woman's home. In 2007, she became the diversity training coordinator for One World Neighborhood Café, an award-winning catering project involving refugee women and women out of prison. Sister Elise then taught English at the SSND elementary and secondary school, Szent Istvan, in Mako, Hungary (2009-10). Upon her return to the U.S., she was the refugee outreach coordinator at Our Lady of Good Counsel Learning Center, Mankato, MN (2012-15). Returning to St. Louis, she served part-time at the Bilingual International Assistant Services (2017-18). Sister Elise also began driving part-time for the Ripa campus in 2016, and then for the Sarah Community, Bridgeton, in 2019. She continues her service as a driver in St. Louis.

A memory I have to share....

I appreciate everything SSND and the community have done for me. I love being a SSND

CELEBRATE OUR JUBILARIANS

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province