

2024 Jubilee

First Profession • August 1, 1964
Celebrating 60 years



SISTER JOAN BACKES, SSND

Sister Joan Backes was born in Loose Creek, Missouri. Sister Joan entered the community in 1962 and professed her first vows in 1964 in St. Louis. She completed her studies at the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis in 1965, graduating with a degree in economics and business. Sister Joan taught secondary grades at Notre Dame High School in Cape Girardeau, Missouri (1965-68); before moving to Helias High School in Jefferson City, Missouri (1968-70). She then spent six years teaching secondary grades at Mater Dei High School in Breese, Illinois, until 1976. While there she also received a Master of Arts in business education from Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas. Sister Joan then moved to Iowa, and taught at Aquinas High School in Fort Madison, Iowa (1976-83). In 1982, Sister Joan earned a second master's degree in religious education from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota. She then served as pastoral associate and director of religious education at St. Mary's Parish in Anna Illinois and as director of religious education at St. Joseph's Parish in Cobden, Illinois (1983-92). She continued her ministry as director of religious education and as pastoral associate at St. Mary Parish in Anna, Illinois from 1992 until her retirement in 2013. Sister Joan then engaged in community service at The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri (2015-19). Currently, Sister Joan lives in prayer and presence in St. Louis, and continues doing community and volunteer service. Throughout her 60 years of ministry, Sister Joan dedicated herself to the education and spiritual growth of youth and adults.

A memory I have to share....

Among my treasured memories are the children who touched my heart. The excitement they portrayed presenting their Christmas plays, their joyful celebration of new life at our Easter egg hunts, and how they shared God's love at our vacation bible schools.

CELEBRATE OUR JUBILARIANS

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province