

2024 Jubilee

First Profession • July 17, 1964

Celebrating 60 years



SISTER JOANNE O'CONNOR, SSND

Sister Joanne O'Connor was born in Waterloo, Iowa, and professed first vows in 1964 in Mankato, Minnesota. Sister Joanne spent much of her career teaching in schools throughout Minnesota, such as St. Francis de Sales School, St. Paul (1965-66); St. John School in Mankato (1966-69); St. Andrew School, St. Paul (1969-70); and St. Casimir School, Wells (1970-72). In 1972, Sister Joanne received a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee. Sister Joanne then taught Spanish at Good Counsel Academy, Mankato, Minnesota (1974-80); and Cathedral High School, St. Cloud, Minnesota (1980-85). In 1985, Sister Joanne moved to Puerto Rico and taught Spanish at Notre Dame High School, Caguas (1985-86); and then served as secretarial staff at San Agustin, Puerta de Tierra (1986-87). In 1986, Sister Joanne earned a Master of Arts in Spanish from Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont. Sister Joanne returned to teaching, serving at Providence High School, New Lenox, Illinois, for one year (1987-88); before moving to San Antonio, Texas. In San Antonio, Sister Joanne taught Spanish to adults at the Mexican-American Cultural Center (1988-94). She then returned to Minnesota and served as Director of Social Concerns and Hispanic Ministry, Willmar, Minnesota (1995-2002). Sister Joanne was then a visiting professor of Spanish at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina (2002-2012). In 2012, she engaged in ministry to Hispanic communities in Phoenix, Arizona, where she remained for one year. Sister Joanne then went to Missouri, teaching high school at Helias High School, Jefferson City (2013-14); and then serving as an interpreter and pastoral minister at El Puente, Jefferson City, (2014). In 2014, Sister Joanne returned to Mankato, Minnesota, tutoring at the Our Lady of Good Counsel Learning Center (2015-22). Currently, Sister Joanne serves in prayer and presence in Shakopee, Minnesota, after 60 years in education and ministry.

A memory I have to share....

I treasure the memories of our Silver Jubilee trip to our heritage place in Germany, and our experience in Rome, with all the Silver Jubilarians. It was a blessing to make new friendships across provinces. I give grateful thanks for the enriching experience.

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