

# 2024 Jubilee

First Profession • August 1, 1964  
Celebrating 60 years



MARY HELEN (LECLERC) STOKES, SSND

**Sister Mary Helen Stokes** was born in Jefferson City, Missouri, and professed first vows in 1964 in St. Louis. She studied at the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics in 1966. Sister Mary Helen taught at Our Lady of Lourdes, Washington, Missouri (1966-68); Our Lady of Lourdes, Washington, Missouri (1966-68); St. Francis Solanus, Quincy, Illinois (1968-71); St. William, St. Louis (1971-72); St. Dominic Savio, St. Louis, (1972-76); St. Peter, Belleville, Illinois (1976-77); and St. Martin of Tours, St. Louis (1977-78). She earned a Master of Teaching in mathematics from Webster College, (now University), Webster Groves, Missouri, in 1975. Beginning in 1978, Sister Mary Helen began caring for people who were sick or elderly, first at Cardinal Glennon Hospital, St. Louis (1978-79); then at Cardinal Ritter Institute, St. Louis (1978-79); and then serving as a visitor for people who were sick, elderly or infirm at All Souls, St. Louis (1979-86). For the next two years, Sister Mary Helen served as a social worker for BREM Catholic Ministries, St. Louis. In 1988, she became the pastoral associate at St. Wenceslaus Parish, St. Louis, before then serving in ministry at St. Patrick Center, St. Louis (1990-93). Sister Helen then returned to teaching at various places throughout St. Louis, becoming the co-coordinator of religious education at St. Gerard Majella Parish (1993-95); elementary teacher at St. Elizabeth of Hungry (1995-2000); resource and research skills teacher at St. Anthony of Padua School (2000-01); religious education coordinator and resource teacher at Queen of All Saints (2001-03); teacher at St. Joan of Arc (2003-05); and finally teacher at the English Tutoring Project, St. Louis (2005-09). Sister Mary Helen then provided pastoral care at Villa Marie Senior Care Center in Jefferson City, Missouri (2009-20); transitioning to part-time in 2011, as she also cared for a parent in Jefferson City, through 2018. Since 2020, she has dedicated herself to prayer and presence in St. Louis.

## A memory I have to share...

I remember being sent to Washington, Missouri to teach math. Families welcomed you and appreciated having sisters. Sister Audrey impressed me; she was personable with children and families. It took my breath away because I had not been on mission yet. So, I hopped in.

CELEBRATE OUR JUBILARIANS

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School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province