

2024 Jubilee

First Profession • July 17, 1964

Celebrating 60 years



SISTER RITA (MARIE LOUISE)
SCHWALBE, SSND

Sister Rita Schwalbe was born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin and professed first vows in 1964 in Mankato, Minnesota. She taught middle grades and junior high at the following schools: St. Michael, Prior Lake, Minnesota (1965-67); Crucifixion, La Crescent, Minnesota (1967); St. Peter and Paul, Mankato, Minnesota (1968); St. Donatus Iowa (1968-69); and St. Francis Xavier, Sartell, Minnesota (1969-72). In 1971, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in history and sociology from Mount Mary College (now University) in Milwaukee. Sister Rita was principal of elementary education at St. Francis Xavier, Sartell, Minnesota (1972-75) and St. John the Baptist, Savage, Minnesota (1975-76). She coordinated the TIME Program (Teaming in the Ministry of Education) as well as serving as part-time staff at the Center for Spiritual Development, Olivia, Minnesota (1977-79). Sister Rita continued as staff, and doing spiritual direction when the Center moved to Bird Island, Minnesota (1979-82). Following she was the DRE (Director of Religious Education) at St. Mary, Tracy and Walnut Grove, Minnesota (1982-86). Starting in 1986, Sister Rita became an administrator of St. Joseph Health Care at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minnesota, serving there until 1993. She studied social work at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, Duluth, Minnesota, earning a master's degree in social work in 1995. Sister Rita was then hired as the director of the Health Care Access Office, Duluth, Minnesota (1994-2000) and then as director of social service at Lake Superior Community Health Center, located in Duluth and Superior, Wisconsin (2000-06). From 2006 until retirement in 2019, she served as Benefits Eligibility Coordinator at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minnesota. Currently, Sister Rita lives in prayer and presence in Shakopee, Minnesota after 60 years of ministry.

A memory I have to share....

My favorite memory is my 25th Jubilee trip to Europe, I participated in the Rome Renewal Program and had the privilege to travel to our SSND heritage sister in Germany. Reflections on that trip still bring me much joy.

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