

# 2025 Jubilee

## SISTER CLARET FELDHAKE

First Profession



July 31, 1965

*Celebrating 60 years*



Born in Effingham, Illinois, the ministries of **Sister Claret Feldhake** have taken her far from home and then back again. After earning her bachelor's degree in art from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis, she embarked on some 25 years as a high school teacher for schools located in Missouri, Illinois and Iowa, including a decade at Rosati-Kain High School in St. Louis. She then recalls, "I was meeting with one of the provincial councilors on a whole different topic when she asked me, 'Have you ever thought of Africa?' This unexpected question threw me for a loop. After some time and

prayer, I agreed to go to Africa and my life changed forever." So began a new chapter in her ministry, which ultimately would include more than a decade teaching in schools in both Sierra Leone and Kenya. Sister Claret writes, "My call to serve God's people in Africa was life changing. Experiencing another culture, another people and another church was so enriching. My world became much larger and my relationship to God much deeper." In 2005, she returned to the U.S. and then spent the next five years as a community coordinator for Veronica House in Bridgeton, Missouri. 2011 saw her renew her role as an educator, serving as an elementary school art teacher for three different schools within the Diocese of Jefferson City: St. George, Linn; St. Mary School, Frankenstein and St. Joseph, Westphalia. In 2024, she moved on to a ministry of volunteer service and prayer and presence back in her hometown of Effingham, which she continues today, while also substitute teaching at her alma mater, St. Anthony High School.

### What advice or words of wisdom would you want to impart to others?

God's faithfulness and love is beyond what we could ever imagine. In times of struggle and chaos, God is still very present in our lives. God gives us the strength to continue to believe in his ever-loving presence.

### What initially drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

I was taught by SSND from grade school through high school. The sisters were happy and loved to teach. I wanted to be a teacher and felt called to a prayer life as well, so I wanted to be a SSND.

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