

# 2025 Jubilee

SISTER ELLEN JEAN KLEIN

First Profession



July 12, 1955

*Celebrating 70 years*



**Sister Ellen Jean Klein** first considered the idea of becoming a School Sister of Notre Dame (SSND) as a sixth grader, inspired by the SSND who she had as teachers. The first 45 years of her ministry were largely focused on education, but for two very different locations - her home state of Wisconsin and the faraway island territory of Guam. Sister Ellen Jean earned her bachelor's degree in science from Mount Mary College (now University) and set to work as a teacher for students in Milwaukee and Kenosha, Wisconsin. In 1961, she embarked on her first ministry to Guam, teaching at the Notre Dame Aspirature in the city of Yona for a year.

She continued in Guam another four years as a junior high teacher for Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Agat. She returned home briefly in 1966, teaching at St. Mary in Elm Grove, Wisconsin, before she departed once again for a longer stint in Guam. From 1967-1976, she was an education consultant for Guam's Department of Education and then served as superintendent for the Diocese of Agana from 1976-1980. She also earned a master's degree in education from the University of Guam while residing there. Back in Wisconsin in 1980, she ministered as a community service provider for Notre Dame of the Lake in Mequon. In 1981, she returned to the classroom for two years as a junior high teacher. From 1983-2001, she brought her experience and expertise to a new role, director of religious education for five different parishes in the Milwaukee area: St. Adalbert, St. Cyril and Methodius, St. Hyacinth, St. Mary Magdalen and St. Stanislaus. During this time, she also earned a second master's degree, this one in pastoral services, from St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota. The conclusion of her ministry as director of religious education opened a new chapter for Sister Ellen Jean as she moved on to healthcare-focused positions, including volunteering at Havenwood Nursing & Rehab Center in Milwaukee. After completing her clinical in pastoral education in 2005, she was immediately hired as a chaplain at Heartland Home Health Care Hospice in Brookfield, Wisconsin, a position she held until 2010. She then retired, but continues in ongoing volunteer work, helping with communion services and participating in activities with our sisters who reside at Our Lady of the Angels in Milwaukee.

Please share a brief reflection on a ministry experience that was especially meaningful to you and why. My 18 years of ministry and intercultural living on the island of Guam, from final vows to Silver Jubilee, will always be especially meaningful to me. There I experienced that family and all relationships are more important than things. After 40 years, I still keep in contact with those I ministered with.

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Central Pacific Province