

2025 Jubilee

SISTER MARY ELIZABETH RUNDE

First Profession



August 1, 1955

Celebrating 70 years



The ministry focus of **Sister Mary Elizabeth Runde** can be split into two distinct areas of focus - educator and healthcare provider. From 1955 through 1982, Sister Mary Elizabeth held multiple teaching positions, mostly in Missouri, in cities including St. Louis, Krakow and Hazelwood. She also taught in East St. Louis, Illinois. During this period, she earned both her bachelor's degree from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis, as well as her master's degree from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. The summer of 1982 brought a new focus to her ministry, and Sister Mary Elizabeth became a pastoral minister and

director of religious education, first for St. Joseph in Advance, Missouri and then St. Michael in Kahoka, Missouri. With the conclusion of this role in 1988, she enrolled in Lake Land College in Mattoon, Illinois to pursue her interest in nursing, and earned her certificate as a licensed practical nurse. This opened a new chapter in her ministry, and Sister Mary Elizabeth began a career in healthcare that would include several placements on the medical floor at St. Anthony Memorial Hospital in Effingham, Illinois, from 1989-1998 and again from 2001-2006. In 2006, she remained at St. Anthony Memorial, but in a new capacity in pastoral care, taking care of the chapel and bringing Communion to patients. She left St. Anthony in 2011, to begin a series of volunteer ministries for St. Cecelia Parish in Kennett, Missouri, Holy Cross Catholic Parish in Cuba, Missouri and Theresa Center in St. Louis. Today, Sister Mary Elizabeth lives at Veronica House in Bridgeton, Missouri, where she participates in a ministry of prayer and presence.

What initially drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame or how did you know you wanted to be a SSND?

I was drawn to SSND because of the sisters who were so friendly and warm, as well as being excellent teachers. I toyed briefly with entering a nursing community, but in the end, I wanted to be one of those friendly, loving, great educators, the SSND.

Which ministry experience was especially meaningful to you and why?

My most meaningful experience in ministry was preparing the children of St. Cecilia parish for First Communion. Over 90% of the children were Hispanic. Despite the poverty of their home life, they were rich in cultural spirituality. They were happy and eager to come together to share and enjoy one another. They were a gift.

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