

2025 Jubilee

SISTER MARY PATRICIA CASWELL

First Profession



July 12, 1955

Celebrating 70 years



Over her decades of active ministry, **Sister Mary Patricia Caswell** served in two distinct roles - educator and healthcare provider. Like many School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), she started out as a primary school teacher. For Sister Mary Patricia, this was two years spent at St. Alphonsus in Chicago. In 1958, she moved to St. John Baptist in Cook's Valley, Wisconsin. Of this second ministry she recalls, "I loved it there because I felt part of the community. There were only four (sisters) living in the community." In 1963, she returned to Chicago for a year-long teaching assignment at St. Ambrose. This would be followed

by a series of additional teaching roles in three different school communities in Wisconsin: St. Casimir in Kenosha (1964-1965), St. Aloysius in West Allis (1965-1971) and lastly, St. Agnes in Butler (1971). This closed the chapter on her ministries in education as she embarked on a new healthcare-focused ministry, the first of which was a nursing assistant role for Notre Dame Health Care Center in Elm Grove, Wisconsin. From 1974-1976, she dedicated her energies to earning an associate's degree in nursing from Milwaukee Area Technical College. This is in addition to the bachelor's degree in sociology she had already achieved from Mount Mary College (now University) in 1967. With her new certification, she returned to Notre Dame Health Care Center and spent the next decade there as a registered nurse. From 1986-1993 she was a nurse at Visitation at Elm Grove and then went on to share her expertise in nursing case management and social work for Waukesha County Visiting Nurse in Waukesha, Wisconsin for four years. 1997 brought her to Notre Dame of Elm Grove, where she served as a nurse for another ten years. Today, she resides in Trinity Woods, Milwaukee in a ministry of prayer, presence and volunteer service.

Is there a special memory you would like to share as you celebrate your Jubilee?

I was allowed to follow my nursing career, which was a blessing.

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

My 8th grade sewing teacher was a German sister who fled Hitler and lived in the US for 17 years. She influenced my life. I felt at home in the SSND convent.

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province