

2025 Jubilee

SISTER ANITA MARIE LISCHWE

First Profession



July 29, 1950

Celebrating 75 years



For more than two decades, **Sister Anita Marie Lischwe** was a teacher for schools in Missouri and Illinois. The majority of those years were spent teaching at the primary and elementary level for local parish schools, of which she recalls, “I loved helping little children prepare for their First Communion.” During this time she earned her bachelor’s degree in history from the former Notre Dame College, in St. Louis, as well as a master’s degree from St. Louis University in St. Louis. In 1972, Sister Anita Marie’s ministry took a departure from education as she embarked upon an entirely new

role as a nurse’s aide at Villa Gesu in St. Louis. No longer in existence, Villa Gesu was a retirement community for School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). Sister Anita Marie dedicated five years there as a nursing aide, before returning to school and earning her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) certification. With her LPN, she went back to Villa Gesu, and ultimately devoted 20 more years caring for the sisters who lived there. She shares, “Being the night nurse at Villa Gesu, attending to the sisters on the skilled care floor,” as a special memory. Upon retiring from her nursing career in 1999, she served as a volunteer at The Sarah Community’s Anna House and Holy Angels Apartments in Bridgeton, Missouri, until 2015. In 2015, she moved to Veronica House, also located in The Sarah Community, where she committed herself to a ministry of prayer and presence until 2024. She is now a resident of the same Anna House where she once volunteered, continuing in ongoing prayer and presence.

Which ministry experience was especially meaningful to you and why?

I enjoyed my years at our Villa Gesu helping the sisters. I am grateful I became a nurse.

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

I knew I wanted to be a sister. There were no Catholic Schools near us. My mother talked to Sister Tarsilla (my birth sister) and she suggested I go to the Notre Dame Aspirature in St. Louis.

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province