

2025 Jubilee

SISTER JEAN MARIE SMITH

First Profession



July 29, 1965

Celebrating 60 years



A Louisiana native, **Sister Jean Marie Smith** began her ministry as a School Sister of Notre Dame (SSND) educating students of her home state. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Dallas, Dallas, Texas, in 1967 and then immediately entered the classroom, working fulltime as a primary teacher at St. Joseph Hall, Chinchuba in Marrero, Louisiana. The school served deaf students, and she recalls it was "my most interesting and meaningful experience." From this first assignment, she would go on to teach in schools throughout Texas, Louisiana and Alabama. She earned a master's degree from University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama in 1976. In 1979, her ministry evolved as she entered into a five-year role as pastoral minister for Immaculate Conception parish in Rio Grande, Texas. After a period of renewal, she became director of religious education for Mary, Mother of the Church in Brownsville, Texas. From 1992-1995, Sister Jean Marie worked as a retreat staff member of Christian Renewal Center in Dickinson, Texas. 1995 saw her return to her teaching roots for schools in Dallas, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and then Notre Dame of Dallas Special School. From there, she served as a receptionist and driver at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Mississippi, for four years. 2010 sent her north, and she spent two years in Chicago in community service for the North American Postulancy. At the conclusion of that ministry, she returned to Dallas and the Notre Dame of Dallas Special School where she was both a teacher's aide and part of the clerical staff. Since 2019 and up through today, Sister Jean Marie offers her prayer and presence from St. Anthony's Gardens in Covington, Louisiana.

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

The thing that has proven to be a special blessing in my life is the opportunity for enrichment: my various studies about spirituality; my 30-day retreat at Lebh Shomea Retreat Center in Texas, where I studied the spirituality of Sts. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross; my sabbatical at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Mississippi; and my Spiritual Directors-Summer Institute at the Mercy Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province