



Celebrating 70 years



Sister Mary Joseph Quichocho journeyed from her home on the island of Guam to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1952 to embark on her life as a School Sister of Notre Dame (SSND). She spent time as a student at Mount Mary College (now University) in Milwaukee from 1955-1956, and then worked one year as a teacher's aide for St. Luke's in Gary, Indiana. In 1957, she returned to Guam and launched into decades as a dedicated educator, mostly for schools in Guam. From 1957-1967, she would hold several teaching roles: St. Francis Catholic School in Yona, San Vicente Catholic School in Barrigada, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School in Agat and then back to St. Francis in Yona. 1969-1979 brought one of her longer-held ministries as she returned to San Vicente Catholic School to teach at the junior high level. She also earned her bachelor's degree in education from the University of Guam in 1975. She briefly taught again at Our Lady of Mount Carmel from 1979-1980, and then took a period of renewal at Our Lady of the Pines in Chatawa, Mississippi. Following her sabbatical, she did not return immediately to Guam, but was instead ministered to Yap, an archipelago which is part of the Caroline Islands, located in the western Pacific. From 1981-1988, Sister Mary Joseph was a junior high teacher for St. Mary's School and Church on Yap. She then made her way back to Guam to teach once again for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School. For the first half of the 1990s, she would revisit her teaching role at St. Francis Catholic School in Yona. Starting in 1995, she began a nearly 20-year tenure back at San Vicente Catholic School, serving first as teacher for 15 years, and then another five as a volunteer. Since 2015, she has served in various volunteer and community service capacities in the cities of Barrigada, as well as Talofofo, where she currently resides.

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

I was one of the first graduates of St. Francis School. Sister Eucharita Luxem was my 8th grade teacher and I was so impressed by the sisters. I told my mom, "I want to be a sister."

What advice or words of wisdom would you want to impart to others?

Listen to the inner voice in your heart. Pray and follow its prompting. The Spirit will guide you in making the right choice.

CELEBRATE OUR JUBILARIANS

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province