

2025 Jubilee

SISTER PATRICIA THIES

First Profession



August 1, 1955

Celebrating 70 years



For the first 20 years of her ministry as a School Sister of Notre Dame (SSND), **Sister Patricia Thies** served as a teacher and administrator for schools in St. Louis and nearby Belleville, Illinois. She started out in 1955 at Our Lady of Sorrows in St. Louis, for a term of six years, followed by St. Teresa in Belleville for another five. From 1966-1969, she was both a teacher and administrator at St. John Nepomuk in St. Louis and then an administrator for St. Dominic Savio in St. Louis from 1969-1975. Summer of 1975 brought a new opportunity in ministry to Sister Patricia, as she helped establish Evergreen Hills Home for Girls in Dittmer, Missouri, a home for abused and neglected girls. Of the experience she recalls, “Especially meaningful was learning about the Evergreen Hills Home for Boys in Dittmer which inspired Sister Barbara Marie McIntuff and I to start the home for girls. We were blessed by God and our community to ‘parent’ neglected and abused teenaged girls for 10 years! Grateful to God for all!” She remained in this role for a decade, and then took a sabbatical at University of Notre Dame in Indiana. From there, she launched back into the world of education. She served as an administrator for schools in Litchfield and Sigel, Illinois, before delving into a period of pastoral ministry work. From 1995-1998, she divided her time and duties as a pastoral minister and director of religious education for four parishes in Illinois: St. Mary Help of Christians in Green Creek, St. Mary of the Assumption in Neoga, St. Michael in Sigel and Sacred Heart in Lillyville. She would continue in additional pastoral ministry roles until 2018. Having officially retired in 2018, she has made her home in Effingham, Illinois, serving as a volunteer in the community by offering her ongoing prayer and presence to people in their homes and various nursing facilities.

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

In nearly all my school days I had SSND! There were often times in high school when we visited and helped the sisters after school - time to get to know them and hear their stories. That got me thinking about joining them. Following my graduation from St. Anthony High School in Effingham, and much prayer and talking with my parents, I joined them!

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

So many special memories and overall gratitude to God for His call to follow Him and serve our SSND community day by day!

CELEBRATE OUR JUBILARIANS

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province