

2025 Jubilee

SISTER PHYLLIS MARIE GRZECZKA

First Profession



July 28, 1965

Celebrating 60 years



Sister Phyllis Marie Grzeczka was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She professed her first vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame (SSND) in 1965 in Mequon, Wisconsin, and went on to graduate from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee, with a bachelor's degree in music and elementary education. From 1967 until 1972, Sister Phyllis Marie was a part-time musician for Huntington Catholic High School in Huntington, Indiana, as well as, a part-time teacher at Saints Peter and Paul School. Additionally, she served as the parish organist. Sister Phyllis Marie then moved on to Holy Angels parish in Gary, Indiana, where for

the next six years, she continued her roles as music teacher and organist, in addition to serving as a junior high religion teacher. In 1979, she earned a master's degree in religious education from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. Throughout the 1980s and the early 1990s, she served in various locations in the diocese of Saginaw, Michigan, and Green Bay, Wisconsin. After a three-year stint as an account specialist, Sister Phyllis Marie was sent to St. Francis de Sales Parish in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where she took on the role of liturgist, as well as, the RCIA Director. Christ King Parish in South Bend, Indiana, was next to welcome Sister Phyllis Marie and her many gifts. 2005 brought a new opportunity, of which she recalls, "2005-2011 stand out for me since I was called to be a Provincial Councilor for the former Milwaukee Province. These years provided many opportunities to meet my sisters and work as a faith-filled team that was called to collaborate on many levels along with the four provinces that make up the Central Pacific Province. The call to bring all of us to greater unity was intensely challenging and deeply faith-filled." Following her work with the province, she returned to another full decade of ministry as a liturgical/pastoral musician for the Racine Dominicans in Racine, Wisconsin, a role that concluded in 2023. Today, she remains an active volunteer in her community at Trinity Woods in Milwaukee.

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

One of my core beliefs is that God has a specific plan for each of us and mine was to become a SSND.

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

Follow your heart and trust you have the answers for what comes your way and "all shall be well."

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province