

# 2025 Jubilee

## SISTER VIRGINIA KLESNER

First Profession



July 31, 1965

*Celebrating 60 years*



In 1967, upon earning her bachelor's degree in American studies from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis, **Sister Virginia Klesner** immediately began her ministry as an educator. Her first role was teaching at St. Frances Solanus in Quincy, Illinois. This marked the start of what would ultimately be a longtime legacy of instructing students across Illinois, Missouri and Iowa in elementary, secondary and religious education. In 1994, she began a decade of ministering as director of religious education for several local churches and Catholic school systems in Fort Madison and

Burlington, Iowa. After a sabbatical in 2004, she spent six months in community service for Maria Center in St. Louis. From 2005 until 2007, she returned to Iowa and began a new ministry of adult education, serving as pastoral minister of adult education in Burlington. The next five years found her serving as the local leader for the Motherhouse and Theresa Center in St. Louis. In 2012, she revisited her pastoral minister duties, this time for Our Lady of the Lake in Lake Ozark, Missouri. 2017 brought her back to the St. Louis area where she was a community coordinator assistant for Anna House in Bridgeton. Since 2020, Sister Virginia has lived at Theresa Center in St. Louis, sharing her talents as a seamstress in the liturgical fabric arts department. Of her many years as as teacher and pastoral minister she recalls, "I am grateful for the wisdom and mentoring I received from the older, more experienced sisters, not only as a young teacher years ago, but throughout my life."

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

I was drawn to the spirit of the School Sisters of Notre Dame — their spirit of community living, service as teachers, and prayerful presence in my hometown. Of course God's gentle nudges played a huge role in my call to religious life too.

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

Treasure the people, places and experiences in your life. They are precious.

## CELEBRATE OUR JUBILARIANS

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School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province