

Sister Colette Ryan, SSND - 80 Year Jubilee!



At the age of fourteen Sister Colette Ryan (baptized Mary Agnes) fulfilled her wish to begin her journey to become a School Sister of Notre Dame.

With the blessing of her parents, she left her loving family to begin that journey as a candidate at the Canadian Motherhouse, Notre Dame Convent in Waterdown, ON.

Two years later her sister, Anne Marie, followed in her footsteps and was professed as Sister Mary Thomasine. Today they share their retirement years on 3rd floor in the facility in Waterdown, ON.

Mary completed her High School education at Notre Dame Academy, which was also part of the Motherhouse, with the boarders and day students who chose to be educated by the School Sisters.

On July 29th, 1942, Mary entered the novitiate as Sister Mary Colette and on July 30th, 1943 achieved her goal and pronounced her first vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame.

After completing her education as a certified teacher, Colette began her career as an educator in Hamilton, ON. From there she was missioned to England where she served in two locations - Faversham, Kent and Woolwich, a suburb of London. Both were private day schools run by the School Sisters.

Upon her return to Canada, Colette took a year off to study at McMaster University and was then missioned to Cloverdale, British Columbia.

The time came, however, when Colette felt the need for a change in career. She asked and was allowed to begin studying for a Master's degree in librarianship at Western University in London, ON. This opened for her the opportunity to take the position as librarian at St. Mary's High School in Kitchener, ON and it was there she completed her career in formal education until she retired.

At that time the position of Archivist for the Canadian Province became vacant and she was asked to assume that responsibility. It became a very fulfilling ministry, as Colette used her skills as librarian to organize the Records and modernize accessibility.

Colette completed that work and began her last active ministry as librarian for the Motherhouse community which she still fulfills on a part-time basis.