

## *Sister Henrice Eckert, SSND – 80 Year Jubilee!*



*Sisters Carole Tabano and Henrice (R)*

*“... nothing is beyond  
God's power.”*

**My life began on the ice!** On June 23, 1923, my mother was ready to give birth, I was ready to meet the world and my dad was working. My mom saw the friendly ice man and asked him to take her to St. Catherine's hospital and there began my journey! I was named Catherine, after the hospital.

My childhood was happy and full. I had a sister, the firstborn, who died shortly after birth. The doctor told Mom not to have any more children, but God and my parents had other plans. I came along and then my brother.

Sometimes God works in strange ways. When I was 14 years old, I knew I wanted to do something special with my life. The daughter of a family friend was home for the holidays from the newly formed aspiranture. She was so enthusiastic about her SSND connection, she convinced me to apply for the SSND formation in Fort Lee, New Jersey – to be there with her.

My parents agreed. I entered the beginning of my new life. Lo and behold, shortly after, my friend left and went home! God attracted me in surprising ways.

I had studied with the SND, not SSND, from grades K to 8, but here I was with the SSND Congregation in 1939.

My life with our SSND community has taught me many lessons of sacrifice, struggles, strength, courage and deep faith in God's love and mercy. The graces I received were shared with others. I tried to live the Gospel message of love and compassion.

Loving God and accepting daily challenges has enabled me to face every day and every chapter of a full, blessed life with all its ups, downs and turn-arounds! I have a deep devotion to the Little Flower (Little Flower in this hour, show your power) and to the Holy Spirit. *(Cont'd)*

## *Sister Henrice Eckert, SSND – Cont'd*

My 100th birthday, this past June, was celebrated with great joy and gratitude! I had been hospitalized and in rehab for over a month. Meanwhile, Sister Carole Tabano was organizing a special celebration with friends from my past and church friends. All this was done while I was in rehab and Carole spent 9 hours a day at my side. [You can read about my birthday celebration and see some photos here!](#)

As a “retired” teacher and grateful SSND, I thank God and Sister Carole for enabling me to continue to live a full life to this day with faith and energy of spirit. I have always taught my students a wonderful little prayer, “I am good, I am beautiful and a child of God who loves me unconditionally.” They still come back and repeat it to me after all these years.

A special “God moment” was a gift to me years ago when I taught summer religion school. A darling boy, Bernard, was a very smart 6-year-old. I was teaching “purgatory” and how we get “washed” before going to heaven. He spoke up and claimed it was just a lie because on Saturday night at home, everyone took a bath to be clean for Sunday church! Out of the mouths of babes.

Later, Bernard came to me with a piece of fuzzy, dirty candy he had in his pocket and told me, “Sis, I give you my whole heart” and handed me the candy, stood there and waited for me to eat it. His eyes lit up and his face glowed as I put it in my mouth. I said a silent prayer!

The next summer I looked for Bernard, but was told he had been hit by a car and had died. His childlike spirit has lived on in my heart for over 70 years. Bernard has been washed and is in God’s arms!

I began my teaching career at Holy Family School in Rochester and ended my teaching years at Holy Family School in New Jersey. Full circle.

I was biology teacher and guidance counselor at the Academy of the Holy Angels High School, Fort Lee (Alma Mater). Happy memories of annual ski trips to Italy with about 70 students. My biology classes gave me and the students a deep appreciation for the miracle of life in all forms. *(Cont'd)*

## *Sister Henrice Eckert, SSND – Cont'd*

Having completed 80 years in religious life, my gratitude is endless. God has blessed me in a million ways and filled me with such a sense of His faithfulness. I have faced some very difficult times along the journey... some doubts ... but with God at my side, and the support of friends and SSND community, I have been able to look beyond the struggles, and grow in faith and strength. As I grow older, my sense of independence is diminished, but I give thanks for the many years of joy given to me.

Choosing SSND was a leap of faith and that has seen me through until today. I have a great love for the Memorare Prayer and shared it with students over the years.

My life in SSND has taught me faith in God's love and that nothing is beyond God's power. I am not alone! May each day bring strength and courage as I face each new day. God bless us all!

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*During my time at Holy Family in NJ, I taught religion, biology, organized graduation, First Friday Masses, Fundraising, Guidance Counselor for students and parents and served as assistant to principal. The religion books for 5th grade included lessons on sex education. I was elected teacher of that section!! From year to year the students always asked "Sister, when are you going to give the 'talk'? I was famous! Parents thanked me for the straightforward information and gentleness of what was shared.*

*I received the first Legacy Award and the community organized a wonderful celebration. I also was awarded the teacher of the year for the Archdiocese of Newark, received a monetary reward and I invited Sr. Carole to go to Spain with me. She taught Spanish for a zillion years!*

### The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.