

Sister Judith Ring, SSND – 70 Year Jubilee!



*“...God has blessed me
in so many ways...”*

The first time I met the School Sisters of Notre Dame was when I attended St. James School and had Sister Paulinus as my 8th-grade teacher. She encouraged my family to send me to IND for high school. It was during my sophomore year that I requested and received permission to become a Catholic.

I started instructions with Father Caulfield and when he was transferred continued with Father Broderick. I was baptized on October 28th of my sophomore year, received the Sacrament of Penance and my first Holy Communion that weekend, and was Confirmed at the Basilica in January.

During my senior year I told Sr. Paulinus and my Mother that I would like to become a Sister. At first, I was told that I had to be a Catholic for five years before I could enter. Father Broderick and the Bishop looked it up in Canon Law and did not find that. Mother Vitalia checked SSND regulations and gave permission for me to enter.

I entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1953. Two groups of candidates were joined and we became novices in 1954 and came to Villa Assumpta.

After we were professed in 1955, 25 of us stayed at Villa Assumpta as Junior Sisters for one more year.

I will never forget my first year of teaching K and 1st grade. By November of that year, I met a Notre Dame de Namur principal who told me about The Writing Road to Reading Program that her Sisters were piloting in Guam. In December, my own principal met her and listened to her story, came home and asked me if I was still interested. When I said yes, she said get it. *(Cont'd) ...*



Sister Judith Ring, SSND – Cont'd



My first graders were delighted, their parents were happy and the 2nd grade teacher could not believe how advanced the group of first graders had become. I never stopped using that program and continued using it wherever I was sent.

After a few years, when other members of my Mother's family had become Catholics, Mom asked me who she should talk to so she could become a Catholic, too. What a joy that was for me to tell her to talk to the priest she

knew well because he was the chaplain at Church Home and Hospital where she worked – Father Bill Newman. She took my suggestion and began instructions.

From then on Father Bill would bring his mom and my mom to Hartsville, S.C. to visit. Father Bill became a Monsignor and later a Bishop. We were invited to his celebration at the Cathedral and Mom asked him to have her funeral Mass.

As the years passed and Mom became very sick I was with her when she had a massive heart attack and went peacefully home as I sat by her side and simply said “Jesus was coming for her.” The next day I went to see her pastor and told him of her request. He dialed Bishop Newman’s number, gave the phone to me and I told him about Mom. He simply said, “Ask Father John if Saturday is, OK?”

From teaching little children I began to be with those who were very sick – either by praying for the person, sitting with a Sister who was getting ready to go home to the good Lord or visiting and taking Communion to members of the Basilica Parish in nursing homes or Westminster House.

Several members of my family who were very sick had asked if I could have a prayer service for them. So, I held a simple prayer service for my Jewish nephew, who died of cancer. I went to my brother before he died of cancer and was cremated shortly after I returned to Baltimore.

My family has always been very supportive of me and God has blessed me in so many ways so that I have felt his presence as I worked with our Sisters and my friends. All have received Mother Theresa’s blessing from me when I visit. Life has been enriched.