

Sister Ann Marie Whelan, SSND - 70 Year Jubilee!

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as far back as I can remember.*



Sister Ann Marie, in the autobiography she wrote before her first profession, wrote about her childhood and calling to religious life:

It was on July 16, 1929, that God had bestowed upon the happy parents, Anna C. McShea and Charles Bernard Whelan, both Catholics, and Brooklynites, a bundle of joy. I was the first girl. During the years to come God had blessed my mother anew with five more children. My mother, three brothers, and two sisters are living in Brooklyn, New York.

In the fall of 1935, I entered the first grade at St. Saviour's School, Brooklyn, New York, conducted by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. It was from there that I graduated in 1943, having completed my eight years of grammar school. At the end of my first year there, I had the privilege of receiving my Lord in Holy Communion for the first time. On June 12, 1940, I received the fruits of the Holy Ghost in Confirmation. I was confirmed by his Excellency, Bishop Molloy.

After graduation, I entered the Juniorate at Fort Lee, New Jersey, and spent four happy years there. I graduated June 8, 1947. During my junior year, God in His Divine Providence had seen fit to call unto His own, my father.

On August 28, 1947, I received the bonnet of the Candidates of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, at St. Saviour's in Brooklyn. During my two years a Candidate, I spent one as a student attending the Notre Dame Teacher Training School and the other on mission at Holy Redeemer's, Rochester, New York, teaching the third grade. I wanted to be a Sister from as far back as I can remember. To further that desire, and having heard of the Juniorate, I decided to go there to develop my vocation. Through the good example of the Sisters there, and the inkling I received of their religious life, I knew that it was what I wanted. It is to this end that I desire to receive the Holy Habit of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Sister Ann Marie began her ministry as an educator in Catholic schools in New York and then in Maryland, serving for forty-five years. She then went on to minister at St. Ambrose Outreach Center in volunteer ministry and as an adult education teacher and later at Mother Seton Academy, both in Baltimore.