

Sister Jean Hartleib (Charles Marie), SSND - 75 Year Jubilee!



*"We need spiritual people to walk with us,
so that each of us can find that inner power
within us, so that we can become whole
again as persons and as people."*

Given my long years in religious life, my varied interests, and ministries, it seems surprising to recall how difficult my decision to enter actually was. One week before the entrance date, I finally said YES to the relief of my parents and the Sisters in whom I was confiding.

My ministry as teacher and principal was a happy one. Also my years in provincial leadership and as directress of postulants. After several years in Bolivia, I became more aware of our indigenous communities in northern Ontario. After some years of ministry among them, I saw their need for a voice. That led me to a welcome year of interviewing native leaders, social service personnel, families, and priests and religious engaged in native ministry. Subsequently, I published an article in *Soundings* in 1989. From that article, I quote a native educator: "We need spiritual people to walk with us, so that each of us can find that inner power within us, so that we can become whole again as persons and as people." And I close with a question posed to me: "Will the white man ever understand what has happened to us?"

Now I minister with a welcome smile to each person as she acknowledges my peaceful, prayerful presence to all that is.