

Sister Kathleen Jancuk, SSND - 50 Year Jubilee!



L-R: Sisters Francita Hobbs, Kathleen Jancuk and Phyllis McNally

"For I know well the plans I have for you - says the Lord - plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope."

Jeremiah 29:11

The Tapestry of Life by Living God's Plan

I have always believed that God has a plan for me. Being an SSND over the past 50 years has been the path through which the plan that God has for me continues to unfold.

Who would ever have thought that a girl from a poor family of six children, would ever have had the opportunity to go to college, get advanced degrees, and become an educator. It happened though. My father was the son of Polish immigrants, and my mother came from Henderson, North Carolina, so at a young age I was exposed to interculturality without being aware of it. I entered SSND as an aspirant, and one of my classmates was from Bolivia.

Since that time, SSND has provided me with many opportunities to learn and grow into the person God wants me to be. It is because of that growth that I have been blessed with the opportunity to minister in a variety of places to so many wonderful people. In Philadelphia I taught, Hispanic, African American, and Vietnamese children. I also ministered in Kentucky and Tennessee for three summers among the people of Appalachia. In Baltimore and Annapolis, I worked with children who had reading disabilities which was quite rewarding. During my time as principal for St. Clare

School in Essex, MD, I assisted in the school's obtaining certification by the Middle States Association. Later, as principal of St. John Neumann School in Cumberland, I helped to facilitate the consolidation of St. John Neumann Elementary School with Bishop Walsh Middle/High School, resulting in a flourishing "Bishop Walsh School", Pre-K through grade 12.

For the past 15 years at Bishop Walsh School, where I teach English as a second language, the school has been open to international students from China, Brazil, France, Montenegro, and Serbia. I've been to Japan twice, once for a cultural enrichment opportunity and then a subsequent visit to teach for the Notre Dame High School and Notre Dame University in Kyoto. There is nothing like being immersed in a different culture to understand the people. One of my closest friends is a Sister I met during my time in Japan.

Through its internationality, SSND has taught me a great deal about the value of unity in diversity. I have come to appreciate the interculturality that exists in our congregation and the world, not only through my visits to Japan and Europe, but also through teaching English to a Sister in Slovenia by way of Skype.

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Sister Kathleen Jancuk, SSND - 50 Year Jubilee! (Cont'd)

Many times, I've marveled at the role I believe we can play by modeling what unity in diversity could mean in our global community.

Someone once described life as a tapestry. When you are in the midst of it, all you see are knots and disassociated threads woven together, yet seemingly with no direct connection. But when you view it as a completed whole, it is a beautiful work of art. I believe the Lord is still creating the tapestry of my life. May it become the work of art He intends.