

Sister Patricia Ostdick, SSND - 70 Year Jubilee!



Born June 3, 1930, in Elgin, Illinois, to the parents of Harry J. Ostdick and Margaret E. Balita, Sister Patricia Ostdick encountered the School Sisters of Notre Dame while in third grade when her family moved to Belvidere Illinois. There she attended Saint James School taught by SSND. Two years after graduating from high school, she entered the Candidature of the "Poor School Sisters of Notre Dame" in Milwaukee.

From her autobiography, Sister Patricia wrote of her childhood and vocation, "As a child I always admired nuns because they seemed so holy and good. Trying to imitate them I would often induce my little sisters and even my youngest brother to play dress-up... My vocation was brought to a realization by my brother, a Benedictine Monk, and my sister - a School Sister of Notre Dame. Both prayed for my vocation."

Sister Patricia wrote about where her ministry might lead, "From childhood on, my only desire was to teach black children, and since my entrance in religion, my desire has increased. And hearing the news that new Black schools may ask Notre Dames to instruct the children has made me happy. I would like to care for old Sisters or Sisters afflicted with any mental disease. It is in these people where I find true sanctity. My ideal and motto is to always go cheerfully wherever Divine Providence sends me. In this spirit of detachment, I can do everything for Jesus, like Mary."

Sister Patricia ministered as a primary and secondary teacher in Catholic schools around Chicago and at Holy Assumption in West Allis, Wisconsin for more than four decades. She went on to teach at Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore for four years. She then served as a patient advocate at St. Joseph's Home for the Aged in Chicago for twenty years. Sister Patricia now ministers in prayer and presence in Chicago.