

## *Sister Donna McHugh, SSND - 60 Year Jubilee!*



*Sister Donna is seen in dark blue, to the left of the cross, and her sister, Sister Diane, is on the right.*

"On a cold stormy day of March 11, 1939 twin girls were born to a Catholic couple, Peter Joseph and Margaret McHugh," begins Sister Donna McHugh's autobiography. She and her sister, Diane, were baptized at Holy Name Church in Providence, R.I. on April 13, 1939. Donna first met the School Sisters of Notre Dame at Holy Name in the first grade. She writes in her autobiography, "It was the beginning of nine happy years that I shall never forget...I grew up to love and admire the sisters. It was during the sixth and seventh grade that a seed of my religious vocation was planted."

Until her junior year in high school, she helped in her mother's Laundromat. Later she worked in a hospital as a "tray girl." Following graduation from high school, Donna worked fulltime in a candy factory. She said, "Even this helped me realize that mine was a teaching vocation."

She entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame in September 1957 in Baltimore, three months after graduation from high school, and professed first vows in July 1959. For more than half a century, from 1960 - 2014, Sister Donna was an educator in Catholic schools in Roxbury, Mass. and Wakefield, R.I. She earned her Bachelor of Art in Elementary Education from Notre Dame of Maryland University in 1967.

