

## *Sister Mary Helenann Nelson, SSND - 60 Year Jubilee!*



Barbara Jean Nelson was born on October 20 in Providence, Rhode Island, was one of six sisters and two brothers to parents, Helen Theresa from Boston and Carl Reynold Nelson from Sweden. She was baptized at Holy Name Church two weeks later.

Barbara Jean entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Baltimore in September of 1957. She professed first vows in July 1959 and was given the name Sister Mary Helenann. Sister Mary Helenann's first ministry was as an educator at St. Leo in Irvington and then at St. Brigid in Westbury, N.Y. In 1967, she enrolled in the Catholic University of Puerto Rico for a year.

From Puerto Rico, Sister Mary Helenann departed for Santiago, Chile and ministered as a teacher and administrator at San Juan de Dios from 1968 to 1975. Upon her return to the U.S., she provided community service at the motherhouse in Wilton, Connecticut for a year and then continued teaching and providing administrative leadership at Catholic schools in New York. From 1982 - 1994, Sister Mary Helenann lived and served in Lima, Peru in pastoral ministry. Later, she spent 20 years in Chile serving in pastoral ministry and as District Leader for Latin America. She returned to the U.S. in 2015 and is involved in volunteer ministry at Villa Notre Dame in Wilton.

Sister Mary Helenann earned her Bachelor of Arts in Education from Notre Dame of Maryland University in 1967 and a Master of Science in Education from Pennsylvania State University in 1977.

