

Sister Zita Merkwowsky SSND - 75 Year Jubilee!



Sisters Petra Klotz (back row), Thomasine Ryan (left)
and Zita Merkwowsky (right)

When I reflect on my 75 years of religious life, what strikes me is the many blessings I have received from my ministries, and through community life.

The day I entered the candidature everything was new and strange, but the following motto, printed on the blackboard, gave me a sense of purpose and courage:

*To be the best that I can be
For Truth and Righteousness and Thee,
Oh Jesus Lord I Come!*

This motivating message was a blessing indeed as I and the other candidates began a new way of life!

My main ministry was teaching children in the primary grades, and then teaching Kindergarten through Grade 8, using the Diocesan Catechetical Correspondence Course. This program also helped parents grow in the faith along with their children.

Reflecting on this ministry I became aware of the fact that, yes, much good had been accomplished - and I also see how the students had been a big blessing for me! Many of them have amazed me through their deep faith, love, generosity and trust. No wonder Jesus said: "Unless you become like little children..."

One instance I recall was when my children who were preparing for their first Communion had just returned from church and their first Confession. They were all seated quietly when I noticed little Oliver's face beaming with joy. I asked, "Oliver, what makes you so happy?" He crossed his arms on his chest and said: "Now my soul is all pure!"

As a religious there were many opportunities for growth in my spiritual life. For this and many other blessings received, I give grateful thanks to God.

Cont'd

Sister Zita Merkowsky SSND - 75 Year Jubilee! (Cont'd)



Sister Zita was born on December 5, 1922, in Cavell, Saskatchewan, one of ten children of parents Anna Bittner and Vincent Merkowsky, both from Russia. Zita entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame in the summer of 1941 in Waterdown, Ontario and professed first vows on July 31, 1944. She ministered as an educator at Catholic schools in Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia for 30 years. She then served as religious education director, pastoral minister, visitor of the sick, elderly and infirm, and then for twenty years provided catechetical correspondence in Saskatchewan and Ontario.

