

Sister Marie Denise Murphy, SSND - 70 Year Jubilee!



God provides!

Sister Marie Denise has offered to bring mail up to the Wellness Floor for sisters in rehab.

It hardly seems possible that 70 years have passed since my profession in 1950. In memory, I travel back to being assigned to open a new mission on Long Island. We were two newly professed sisters, Sister Marie Edwin Sokel and me, and a new superior assigned to St. Joseph, Lake Ronkonkoma. Sister Mary Daniel Sullivan was the Superior. We told her that neither of us played the organ and we also didn't know how to cook.

I think she was a bit overwhelmed when we unlocked the school door and saw classrooms crowded with desks and chairs. The three of us had double grades with class sizes in the seventies.

The Holy Spirit was exhausted at the end of the first week but God provides! We tried to remember all the excellent SSND teachers who had taught us and imitated them.

The school grew and God provided. To this day, Marie Edwin and I reminisce about our first year professed and the help God gave us each and every day.

Mary Helen Murphy was born on Nov. 24, 1929 in Waterbury, Connecticut. She was the only child of parents, Margaret Canfield of Pennsylvania and Dennis Murphy of Ireland. Sister Denise entered the congregation in Baltimore in 1947 and professed first vows in 1950. She ministered as a teacher, and later as principal in Catholic schools in Connecticut and New York for nearly six decades. In 2016, she was pastoral minister at St. Francis Parish in New Britain, Conn. She currently ministers in prayer and presence.