

Sister Elizabeth Marie Kelly, SSND - 60 Year Jubilee!



I served God and God ' s people for thirty-five years in Pastoral Care.

My story began before I was born.

In 1929 my brother, Gerard, was born as a "Blue Baby". He was in need of oxygen, at the same time my Mother had suffered a stroke. Dr. Blessing was concerned for my Mother's health. The Doctor asked Mom please "Do not have any more children." My mother responded very quickly. "You mind your business and I will mind mine."

Mom promised to Our Lady that if more children should be given to her care, she in turn promised that those children, if it was God's calling - she would not stand in their way to serve Him. There were three girls born – namely: Kathleen, Ursula and Jacqueline -- better known to you as Sister Kathleen, Sister Ursula and Sister Elizabeth Marie. All serve as School Sisters of Notre Dame for a total of 189 years [one-hundred eighty nine years] so far.

My story resumes - I was in the first grade in 1946. About this time the first thoughts of becoming a SSND entered my mind. My teacher was Sister Brittia, SSND. She was

the person who sewed the first seed of a vocation as a teacher. Sister asked me "What do you want to be?" My answer was quick and clear - "I want to be just like you." Sister encouraged me to write to Mother M. Myles, the Provincial. I completed what Sister asked me to do. Mother Myles wrote back to me with a lot of encouragement. Mother Myles stated "I will pray for you that you will follow your call to be a School Sister of Notre Dame." Today, on this year, Thanks be to God I Will celebrate my 60th year in our Community.

My sisters Kathleen, and Ursula, along with my whole family have been my biggest support system, by their love and encouragement. This is the real reason why I have reached this 60th year of my profession - the class of 1960.

The ministry I most enjoyed was Pastoral Care. God has blessed me with many gifts and that I was able to reach various people in difficult times of their lives. I served God and God ' s people for thirty-five years in Pastoral Care.

The goodness from SSND, I was given the opportunity to be the Directress of

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Associates. The Associates came from three provinces to form one province. This was a challenge for all of us. I gave it my best effort to all who participated.

The best thing about being an SSND is twofold: first - the opportunity of sharing my faith and values through my teaching to the children of God and their parents; second - events that happened through my experiences of Pastoral Care -- this ministry provided me with ability - to listen - to care - to help - and to pray with the patients and their families as they look forward to the welcoming arms of their Creator for their eternal reward.

Lovingly in Notre Dame,

Sister Elizabeth Marie Kelly SSND