

# *Sister Jo Ann Villademoros, SSND – 70 Year Jubilee!*



**Sr. Jo Ann, second from the right, celebrated her 65th Jubilee in 2021 in West Palm Beach, Florida**

*"God had said "You're going to need me, ... and I did."*

**The first nun I ever met** was a Mercy Sister. I was in 3rd grade.

Sister Basil was like my grandmother. She was gentle, loving and encouraging to all the children. That was my first impression of what Sisters were.

When my father retired from the Army, we moved from Texas to Tampa, FL. I was going into the 7th grade at that time.



**Sr. Jo Ann's parents,  
Joseph John Clemente &  
Josephine Clementine  
Villademoros**

I fell in love with my 7th grade teacher, a Salesian Sister. Sister Anita had a lot of life and vivaciousness about her and was able to relate to 7th and 8th graders. I'll never forget her.

I felt a vocation, and thought I was being drawn to enter the Salesian Sisters. I spent two years as an aspirant with them, but I was homesick. I told them I wanted to go home to finish school.

I returned to Tampa, where I attended high school in Ybor City neighborhood. That's where I met the SSNDs, as they ran the school.

I fell in love with the SSNDs, and felt a vocation to them.

It was quite the struggle to decide to enter SSND, though. My love was also strong for the Salesians. (Cont'd)

## Sister Jo Ann Villademoros, SSND – Cont'd



To this day, I think God wanted me to be an SSND. But the pull to the Salesians was always very strong. I love them dearly.

I think, overall, God has been the one to guide me in my life.

When I was in Bolivia, I used to take Wednesday afternoons off. I would use this time to sit at the edge of the dry riverbeds and pray.

**Pictured Left: Bolivia, 1972: L-R Sr. Mary Ann Wood, Sr. Jo Ann and Ancilla Marie**

Every once in a while, I'd feel something come up behind me. It would be a llama, nuzzling his head against me, checking me out.

One day as I sat there, and I thought there was a llama again behind me. I turned around. There was no llama.

I felt this Presence. It felt like I was being held by Someone who wasn't going to let me go. God.

God is right here... right now.

I know, but can't really articulate the reason it happened. I knew I would need that gift in the future, and I did. It was a gift I needed desperately because I faced a lot of things after that.

God had said "You're going to need me," ... and I did.

I made it through. There was only one thing I asked of God and that was to live until I'm 90.

I'm 90 now, so, if it's tonight ... it's tonight!

And if not, there is a reason why I'm still here.

Know that God is present here and with you also.



**Sr. Jo Ann at Big Ben, National Park (TX), by the Rio Grande**