

Sister Joan Minella, SSND – 70 Year Jubilee!



*“...I was attracted to the lifestyle
and atmosphere evident
among the Sisters...”*

I was born on May 28, 1935, to Joseph and Irene Minella in Rochester, New York. When I was 6 years old, my brother Joseph was born - an answer to my prayer.

Joe was about as active as I was, but my mother said the difference was that I had a purpose in what I was doing! He was always the pesky little brother (until I began to see him mature and we could share on an adult level).

While he and I are different in our outlook on life, I respect him for his values and beliefs and we enjoy our time together.

I went through stages as I grew up of wanting to be just about anything that met my fancy.

The list of possible careers grew as I grew older. In my junior year of high school, I thought about becoming a Sister. I was not attracted to the Sisters of Mercy who taught at my school, though, which led me to wonder if God was really calling me.

My mother's sister, M. Romana Scheid, was an SSND who was missioned in Buffalo during these years. After visiting her convent several times, I found I was attracted to the lifestyle and atmosphere evident among the Sisters there. Finally, in my senior year, I told my aunt that I was thinking of being a Sister. She (who had never mentioned it to me) said we should talk to my parents first. That we did.

I entered on August 28, 1953 and received the bonnet at Holy Redeemer convent in Rochester, NY. I then traveled by night train to Baltimore with another candidate. I studied with the other 50-plus women in my class at the old motherhouse on Asquith Street. Reception into the novitiate on Charles Street was on July 12, 1954. I was professed on July 30, 1955. *Cont'd...*

Sister Joan Minella, SSND – Cont'd



I began teaching elementary school and then became principal at several elementary schools.

(Pictured left is Sister Joan, former Principal of St. John the Evangelist School in Hydes, MD, speaking at a 2015 recognition Mass).

In 1977, I was sent to the generalate to be portress in Rome.

Then in 1980, I worked as Chief Procurator-Advocate for the Archdiocesan Tribunal for 8 years. In 1987, I was elected to the Provincial Council, a ministry that was the most grace-filled and challenging of my life.

In 1997-2009, I was Pastoral Life Director at several parishes in Maryland.

Then I went to Villa Assumpta for Prayer and Presence. I am presently forming community at Stella Maris in Timonium.

“Prayer brings our whole religious life into focus; it supports the rhythm of our lives emphasizing now the person, now the community, now the world we serve.”

YAS C. 28



B.A. Provincial Council: (front/L to R) Sisters Joan Minella, Patricia McLaughlin, Pat Flynn; (standing/L-R) Sisters Marguerite Weiler and Dorothy Arthur.

Read about Sr. Joan's life in ministry, here:

[Remembering Hazardous & Plum Assignments | School Sisters of Notre Dame - Atlantic Midwest Province](#)