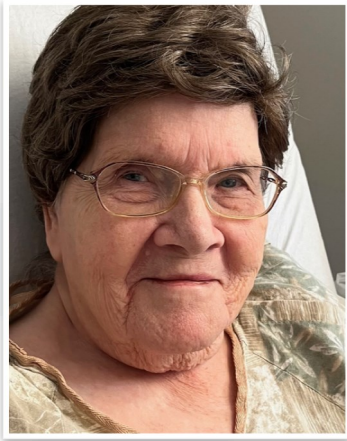


Sister Paulette Doyas, SSND – 70 Year Jubilee!



“Thank God For the ‘Gift’”!

I was born on a Sunday afternoon at 4:00 pm October 14, 1934. I was the 4th of John and Helen’s 4 children.

My “call” was unusual, I think. Maybe after hearing from other Jubilarians, you can decide!

At age 9 or 10, I made a deal with God. I said, "You do this for me and I will become a Nun." Then I forgot all about it. But, by the 7th & 8th grades I was going to 7 AM Mass. No one told me to go ... but I had no thought of vocation.

Mom wanted me to go to ND Prep. To high school I went, met my SSND teachers, and continued going to 7 AM Mass (even though I had to transfer 2 or 3 times to get to NDP). Still no vocation thought.

Junior year, I ‘decided’ to write to Mother Superior (I knew this from one of the Sisters). I just went along with the flow, doing what I was supposed to do. I sometimes felt a “nudge” or ‘got an idea’ to follow my ‘call.’ And I liked the Nuns.

The SSNDs accepted me and I entered the Candidature on August 28, 1952. I was so excited that I didn’t think about my family’s reaction. I was entering a semi-cloistered order which meant home visits were very rare. I was the youngest and last to leave home. It took me a few years to realize how insensitive I was.

It got easier when we were allowed home visits. The first year was spent taking classes, the second year was spent teaching (4th grade at St Bridget’s school), and the third year was spent as a Novice learning about being an SSND.

I became a “real” nun, Sister Mary Paulette, SSND, in August 1955. *Cont’d...*

Sister Paulette Doyas, SSND – Cont'd

My first Mission School was in New York (5 years); then in Annapolis (6 years), Keough High School (8 years) and back to Annapolis (3 years). I enjoyed teaching grades 4 through 8, and math in high school.

These were years of spiritual growth and love of teaching for me. I found a Family of SSNDs in each place I lived. Convent became Home! Each place was a place with a group of Sisters, in the true sense of the word.

As in any family, there were good times and difficult times, but always happy memories.

My last professional move was to the College of Notre Dame of Maryland (now University), where I spent my first 20 years as Assistant Registrar.

There was the usual registering for classes going on, and always questions that needed answering. The questions usually involved academics, but on occasion included emotions, and even the need for counseling.

I really learned the meaning of the word "Help." I learned to listen, and to pay close attention to what a person was saying and needing.

After the Registrar's office, I spent 2 ½ years working in Marketing and PR. Then, I became part of Admissions and Enrollment Management.

During that time, I was able to gather quite a collection of Orioles memorabilia and memories. I sang the National Anthem at Camden Yards and had a sky box given to me to use. I made many friends at Camden Yards. I was dubbed 'The Baseball Nun.' Bobble Heads, pictures, and signed baseballs appeared as if by magic. I would go to as many games as I could! Now, I can look at my Orioles tree and watch the games on TV.

Cont'd...



Sister Paulette Doyas, SSND – Cont'd

I am still working at NDMU, and in my 48th year! I work remotely of course, back in the Registrar's office, helping out with data.

I've come full circle. What a circle! I discovered that life in higher education is different. It would take another whole page to elaborate on it.

The important thing in my life is that I met and made so many friends, especially my SSND Sisters.

I believe that I've always been wherever my "call" meant me to be.

I've taken to heart what someone once said to me: *What happened yesterday is past, it's History; tomorrow is unknown, it's Mystery; and today is the Present, and it's a Gift!*

So be happy and live one day at a time. Thank God for the "gift"!