

## *Sister Pauline Girodat, SSND – 70 Year Jubilee!*



*"...it's my 70th Jubilee  
in a universal year  
of Jubilee for Hope!"*

**I was the firstborn** of Linus and Leona Girodat. They gave me three sisters and four brothers. We are a close-knit family and enjoy being together as often as we can .... even doing annual "staycations"!

I attended Holy Family Catholic Elementary School in Hanover, Ontario, where I had an SSND teacher from grade one to eight.

As the eldest child in my family, I was asked to help in many ways. I cooked, cleaned, gardened, ironed and more. I even helped care for my aunt's babies during the summer holidays. By the age of seven or eight, I was able to feed, change and bathe babies.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame were a blessing and inspiration for me. I asked to be an Aspirant when I was in grade ten. My parents were not surprised. They were proud and were happy to have a Religious as one of their own!

I completed grades ten to thirteen at Notre Dame Academy in Waterdown, Ontario, again having SSND teachers!

I took my first vows in 1958, and final vows in 1961. At that time I was known as "Sister Mary Paula," but later returned to my baptismal name of Pauline.

I attended Hamilton Teachers College and then embarked on an interesting teaching career in elementary schools in many places. The list, from 1958 to 1987, goes like this: Kitchener, Ontario; Salt Lake, Saskatchewan; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Cloverdale, British Columbia; Aroland First Nation, Ontario; Walkerton, Ontario; Lingfield, Surrey, England; Walkerton again, and Pine Point, Northwest Territories. *Cont'd...*

## *Sister Pauline Girodat, SSMD – Cont'd*

Although I had volunteered to do missionary work in South America, I was instead given this wonderful abundance.

From September 1, 1987 to May 25, 1988 I had a sabbatical, participating in a holistic growth resources program in Little Falls, Minnesota, USA (at the same time Sister Mary Guth did!).

I then taught for seven more years in Unity, Saskatchewan. I retired from teaching in 1995.

The following years I became involved in pastoral work in Kelly Lake, B.C.; Fort Resolution, NWT; Owen Sound, Ontario; and Fort Good Hope, NWT. I retired to Waterdown, Ontario, in 2015.

I have been enriched socially and culturally by the number and variety of places and persons I have encountered.

I also have been given other “perks”. I have seen four Motherhouses in the USA, participated in the summer Japan program, attended the beatification ceremony in Poland for Blessed Antonina and made a pilgrimage to Medjugorje.

When I lived in Aroland First Nation, I was a Civil Servant, working for Indian Affairs and Northern Development. When I lived in England, I learned a different version of the English language!

So now it's my 70th Jubilee in a universal year of Jubilee for Hope! More blessings than I know how to say Thank You for! May God bless!



*Sister Pauline Girodat rings bells at Notre Dame Convent (NDC) in Waterdown, Ontario, Canada, in response to a diocesan invitation to pray for an end to the pandemic.*



**Sister Pauline Girodat led the singing during Christmastime at [Notre Dame Convent.](#)**