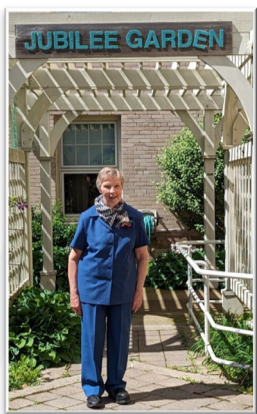


Sister Yvonne Nosal, SSND -60 Year Jubilee!



*"It was a good
and life-giving adventure!"*

Life Giving Adventures!

Sister Yvonne Nosal has had many "life-giving adventures" as a School Sister of Notre Dame, beginning with her entrance in 1961 and first years ministering as a teacher.

"My friend made a retreat with the SSNDs and I decided to go too. When I got back home, I wrote to ask for information. I received an application form. Mom asked What's that? I said it was from the SSNDs. I thought I'd try it.

"My parents gave me a ride down to Waterdown. I knew there was a call within me, and here I am, 62 years later.

"I've done many things in the School Sisters of Notre Dame which I'd not otherwise have done. I've served in Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Peru, Rome."

As Sister Yvonne wrote in 2018, "It is with deep gratitude that I say THANK YOU for all that has been during these enriching, growth-filled years, and as I continue to try to say YES to the new and unique surprises that will surely come my way in the future."

Sister Yvonne entered the congregation in 1961. She served as an educator in Canada

until volunteering for Peru in 1976. Like any typical young person - she was 33 - it didn't occur to her to look into the challenges she would likely face. She calls them "life-giving adventures" today, saying one of the first occurred immediately, on the patio with a youth group.

"I didn't know anything. I couldn't even tell the students off when they were being naughty. I couldn't find the words. I didn't know the language."

After traveling to Bolivia for a 6-week Spanish course, Sister Yvonne returned to Peru ready to serve pastorally, in Family Catechetics. Later, and for ten years, she served in the north of Peru in Fe y Alegria No. 48, first as coordinator of the teachers' work and then as administrator of the program.

Eventually serving as directress, she coordinated educational programs, navigated mudslides, guided the building and rebuilding of schools. On Wednesdays, she took a 2 and 1/2 hour bus ride to Piura where she taught Postulants and Novices of various Congregations for a good number of years.

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Sister Yvonne Nosal, SSMD—Cont'd

While some might question the desirability of Sister Yvonne's adventures, every one of them is fascinating. She shares some of them here:

Creatures



In our house in the north of Peru, we had a few snakes, including one poisonous one that the neighbor would take care of. We also had big lizards with chin growths like iguanas. We could see them in the trees climbing around. Once we had one in the house. That was a challenge! There was a broom and lots of shouting. We finally got it out.

One Sister got bitten by some kind of worm with feet. She had to go to the hospital. We also had tarantulas. I remember one Sister said, By the way, I've got a tarantula on my arm. Then she flicked it off.

We had to get used to the little creatures. We had scorpions too. We had a few of everything, I think.

Lifestyle



We had to cross a river to get to half of the schools we served in. There was no bridge. During the rainy season, we couldn't get over it in a truck, so we used horse-pulled carts. When that didn't work, we used inner tubes. Once we had to walk across. We were up to our necks. We pulled the short Sisters across. It was 50 feet across, and we never knew where the holes were.

The rainy season produced a place we called Hawaii where a lot of water flowed over rocks and formed a 6 x 4-foot circle. We used it for baths and water. We also pumped water from the water canal that ran along our property into a tank. We treated it with iodine and boiled it to make it safe for animals and human bathing.

It was a nice-sized house with an open patio in the middle and a chapel. It was well-built of brick.

We had no phone though. Lightning had struck the tower and it had fizzled up. Eventually we got a mobile phone for the office. It was as big as a brick. We had to talk outside and yell to be heard.

We also had no electricity in the office. We had a motor that we kept outside, that was 50 feet from the office. We ran a couple computers and other necessary things off of it.

Bolivia



In 1980, I went to Bolivia. It was a complete change. I was the only blond head.

We worked with the Resurrectionist priests, ministering in three areas of the parish. They spanned the gamut from very poor to very wealthy:

1. St. Miguel was very rich. When we had Bible study, we were served tea in fancy china cups at the homes of rich ladies.

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Sister Yvonne Nosal, SSND—Cont'd

2. There was a more mixed area, where farm laborers were living. We ate off paper plates there.
3. The most rural area was the poorest. We ate potatoes with our hands. They grew them there.



I was asked to serve as provincial secretary in the ALC Province. I didn't know Portuguese, I didn't like working inside, and I didn't want to be a secretary. But I couldn't come up with a better reason, so I said yes. It was a good and life-giving adventure.

Today 2023

I planned to come back to Canada in December, 2022 when I turned 80, while I still had energy. But I got cancer, and I had surgery August 11, 2022, on my face just below my eye, to remove it. When more cancer was discovered on my chin, I had a 7-1/2 hour surgery on December 23. After I got out of the hospital, I had radiation treatment on my chin. I still have little feeling on the lower part of my chin.

I didn't plan to come home with scars on my body, but I returned to Canada on March 25 and am in the process of healing.

These were some of the life-giving adventures that I encountered in my over forty years outside of my country of Canada.

