

Sister Gracia Kloch, SSND - 70 Year Jubilee!



*"God has been good to me
all through the years."*

I first met the School Sisters when I entered first grade at St. Jerome School in Baltimore and fell in love with them. Little did I know on that morning in early September that this was the beginning of a lifetime of relationship with the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

During my eight years at St. Jerome, I grew to love and respect my teachers. That is why I chose the Institute of Notre Dame as my high school. My teachers were all great educators and wonderful friends.

It was a hot summer day in July when my friend Mary Downey and I received the SSND bonnet at St. Jerome. It was after high school. At that time my parents were not too keen on my entering, but were willing to let me try it.

I did not know any other community, nor was I interested in anyone but SSND.

Within two weeks I was a third-grade teacher in Blessed Sacrament School. How did that happen? Because the School Sisters of Notre Dame were in so much in demand at that time the Candidates were needed in the schools.

No, they did not leave us on our own to the wolves. Sister Lucian and I both taught third grades. Sister was my partner, mentor, and teacher. Each day, after school, Sister instructed me on how to teach the next day's lesson. This was on-the-job training while taking classes on Saturdays and during the summer.

After profession came another surprise. Instead of teaching one grade, I taught two grades in the same room at the same time. This was the beginning of teaching.

After 49 years, I became Director of Religious Education for six years. Then I became a volunteer helping Sister Ruth, who was the RCIA director.

As an elementary teacher for 49 years, my main concern was always that my students received the best that I could give them. It was a privilege working with young minds and seeing them develop.

All my life I never did anything extraordinary. Just went with the flow. Now I am enjoying beautiful Florida and just helping people wherever I can. God has been good to me all through the years. I thank God for 70 blessed years as a School Sister of Notre Dame.