



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2017 Jubilee

Celebrating 60 years
First Profession—8/3/1957

Sister Mary Bryan Owens, SSND

Sister Mary Bryan's first teaching assignment in 1959 was as a teacher at Mater Dei High School in Breese, Illinois. After nine years at MDHS, she was assigned to the Academy of Notre Dame in Belleville, Illinois, followed by an assignment to St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs, California. In 1974, Sister Mary Bryan returned to Belleville as dean of students at Althoff High School. She then became principal of Notre Dame High School in St. Louis, where she served from January 1977 until 1984. Her ministry of high school administration then continued at St. Francis Borgia through 1995. Similar assignments took her to St. Vincent in Perryville and Gibault High School in Columbia, Illinois. In 2007, Sister Mary Bryan began her current ministry as a part-time English teacher of adult refugees at St. Louis's International Institute. She earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in English from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis and St. Louis University, respectively.



A reflection I have to share...

The single, most life-giving experience of my SSND days and years is the ongoing gift of community. Among my community “members” these 60+ years are my 52 classmates who “entered” religious life with me in 1955 and studied, learned, laughed, wept, and, whether or not they stayed, continue to inspire and encourage me today. I am also most grateful to the SSNDs with whom I have lived, and who enriched my ongoing community experience. Their guiding, showing, inspiring, challenging and forgiving me through both hard times and hilarious times, mostly through just the day-to-day “stuff,” has helped me to better see, understand and hopefully live out the concept of community. Finally, for the students, teachers and staffs at the eight high schools where I served, including the International Institute, I am most grateful. All of these people, along with my own family, have helped give life and breath to my understanding and living of that sometimes evasive concept of community. My prayers of thanks for this ongoing gift!

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