



2017 Jubilee

Celebrating 70 years
First Profession—7/31/1947

Sister Marie LeClerc Laux, SSND

Sister Marie LeClerc devoted the first 19 years of professed ministry as a teacher, then principal, at St. Boniface grade school in Milwaukee from 1947 to 1966. She then directed the SSND Head Start program at four inner city Catholic schools in Milwaukee. Missioned to St. Joseph Home for Emotionally Disturbed Boys in Green Bay, she served as principal for five years, then as a junior high and high school teacher at St. Mary's High School, Menasha, Wisconsin. Returning to Milwaukee, she taught for six years at Bruce-Guadalupe Community School. Sister Marie LeClerc began a new ministry in 1986 as the curriculum and volunteer coordinator of the adult literacy program for the new Milwaukee Achiever Program, a role she held for six years. After a sabbatical, she served on staff at Divine Savior/Holy Angels High School, and for seven years, she taught adult English learners at Milwaukee Area Technical College in the evenings. From 1996 through 2004, Sister Marie LeClerc again taught at Milwaukee Achiever. Since 2009, she has retired at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, continuing her care for others through prayer, service and writing, resulting in the publication of *Reflections*, a small chapbook of poetry.



A memory I have to share...

Memories crowd the 70 years of my religious life, 50 of which involved teaching. Immediately my memory sees little, speech-impaired Head Start Johnnie run to the play telephone when called by an aide, and shout out his very first word, "Ha doh." I hear the chug of the buses at St. Boniface School in Milwaukee as they take our children to Freedom Schools to boycott public school segregation. I hear the freedom chants of the 1960s, and I am grateful for being part of Milwaukee's Civil Rights movement, even with its conflicts and misunderstandings. Then I see the quiet image of a young Hmong mother intent on learning English, whose slacks (which I learned later) concealed a cast on her leg, which was shattered by bullets while escaping from Laos with her husband and child. Having daily opportunities like these, to help others be all that they can be, is an invaluable gift to me, even as I myself struggle to be all that I can be in showing God's loving generosity and care.

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