



Celebrating 60 years



“From an early age, I babysat for my older sisters’ and brothers’ children. For much of that babysitting, I acted like a teacher and I loved leading and playing with little children. During my high school days with Notre Dame sisters, I found what I wanted to do in my life and how I wanted to do it—be a School Sister of Notre Dame (SSND).” The ministry of **Sister Andre Maureen Soete** has been one heavily focused on education, including opportunities that allowed her to teach internationally. Sister Andre Maureen graduated from the former Notre Dame Collage in St. Louis in 1967 and began assignments for communities in Missouri, including

St. Louis, Jefferson City and Linn. In 1986, she answered a life-changing call to travel to Japan, where she taught at Notre Dame Secondary and Elementary Schools in Kyoto and served in the Regional Office. In 1991, after a one year experience teaching at the Notre Dame School of the Japan Mission in Bandipur, Nepal, she returned to Japan for 14 more years. At that time she also served a term on the Regional Council of Japan. After a period of sabbatical, Sister Andre Maureen returned to Bandipur, Nepal, joining the Japanese sisters, teaching and assisting their leadership team. She completed 18 years in Nepal before returning to the U.S. in 2021. Sister Andre Maureen now lives in her hometown of St. Louis, where she volunteers at Theresa Center.

Is there a special memory you would like to share as you celebrate your Jubilee?

I was and am blessed to have lived in community and ministry in Bandipur, Nepal for 18 years. That opportunity makes me feel like I have lived in the presence of our saintly Mother Theresa and Mother Caroline. Our own two Japanese Sisters, Evangela and Miriam Therese, who founded and led that mission school in a remote and poor village, have so many qualities of our foundresses; risk-taking, giving up of all conveniences, witnessing the love of Jesus, creatively working for justice and peace, using all of their energy for leading, training and guiding children, teachers, families and wider communities towards love, hope and kindness. It speaks to me of our foundresses. Not by preaching, but by leadership and modeling, they brought children and families out of values of a caste system and into greater equality and justice. They instilled in teachers the ideals of care, fairness, preparedness, good classroom management; and in the children the importance of study, honesty, self-confidence, having goals, and never giving up. So many of our sisters who served there shared in this great work and accomplishments but the foundation built by Evangela and Miriam will remain in my heart as the tie to the essence of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

CELEBRATE OUR JUBILARIANS

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province