



*Celebrating 60 years*



Upon earning her bachelor's degree from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis in 1967, **Sister Charlotte Flarlong** embarked on a ministry rooted in education. For her first 20 years as a School Sister of Notre Dame (SSND), she was a teacher and administrator for schools primarily in the St. Louis metro area, including St. Michael and St. Andrew, Sacred Heart in nearby Eureka, St. Elizabeth/St. Robert in St. Charles, and St. Martin of Tours in Washington Park, Illinois. During that time, she would also earn her master's degree in education from the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. From 1987 to 1992, she

served as a community leader for the former St. Louis Motherhouse. She closed out the 1990s as an elementary education administrator for St. Elizabeth Hungry School in St. Louis. Sister Charlotte spent the next four years as a student herself, earning a master's in pastoral studies (MAPS) from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. The next twelve years found her as the parish school of religion coordinator at Mary, Queen of Peace in St. Louis as well as offering spiritual direction at The Family Center. After a period of prayer and discernment, she moved to Forsyth, Missouri where she became the pastoral associate for Our Lady of the Ozarks. She recalls of that experience, "Many events came together for me to know that I was called to say "yes" to this ministry. Parishioners often told me (and still tell me that after being gone) that I helped them to become one. I was the only SSND who ministered there. What a profound experience of our SSND charism to carry our Jesus' mission to make one." Today, she guides the coordination of SSND associates in Missouri and Illinois and continues to offer spiritual direction and retreat work.

### What initially drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame or how did you know you wanted to be a SSND?

I had two relatives who were SSND and I attended Notre Dame High School in St. Louis. Others saw that I had a vocation before I did. I needed to be intentionally invited by my high school principal. Then I felt the call and realized all the clues I had missed.

### What advice or words of wisdom would you want to impart to others?

God's promises are new each and every day; God's faithfulness and love never end. Therefore, place your trust in God's enduring Love. What a source of hope for now and for the future!

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School Sisters of Notre Dame  
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