

# 2025 Jubilee

## SISTER DOMENICA TOCCO

First Profession



July 11, 1955

*Celebrating 70 years*



For more than five decades, **Sister Domenica Tocco** dedicated herself to a ministry of education, specifically to the education of primary grade students. She recalls, “I like small children, so teaching first grade most of my life was a blessing. Also, children like their first grade teachers.” Sister Domenica earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee, in 1956. Degree in hand, she immediately launched into her ministry as a teacher with two years spent at St. Mary in

Greenville, Wisconsin. From there, she moved on to two concurrent teaching assignments for schools in Chicago, first for Guardian Angel and then Santa Maria. In 1964, she moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, for two more back-to-back teaching assignments, Sacred Heart, followed by St. Adalbert. In 1968, Sister Domenica was sent to Detroit, which was a bit of a homecoming in that Detroit is the city of her birth, as well as the archdiocese from which she first entered religious life. She had three brief assignments, teaching at St. Benedict Moor, St. Leo and St. Elizabeth - St. Anthony. When her ministry at St. Elizabeth - St. Anthony concluded in 1972, she then began what would turn into 32 years of teaching at East Vicariate Elementary. After saying goodbye to her students at East Vicariate Elementary in 2004, she spent four years at East Catholic Elementary. She retired from her many years as an educator in 2008, and has been living in prayer and presence in Roseville, Michigan, since then.

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

The sisters, especially Sister Filbert Spizzirri. She was my third grade teacher. I also helped her at church.

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

When I was professed in 1955, my “blood” sister, Sister Salvatore, was taking temporary vows and was cloistered (no visitors), so she couldn’t celebrate with the family. My family was from Detroit, about a 10 hour trip at that time. On the day of my profession, Sister Salvatore was told she could visit with us. Happy day.

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School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province