

# 2025 Jubilee

## SISTER DONNA WALERIUS

First Profession



July 17, 1965

*Celebrating 60 years*



The ministries of **Sister Donna Walerius** have evolved across several seasons of varying focuses - from primary education to pastoral ministry, tutoring to hospitality. Of her journey she recalls, "It is difficult to choose one ministry experience. In my many service experiences, what was especially meaningful was the supportive, encouraging relationships that developed." With the exception of one year spent teaching at St. Mary in Chewelah, Washington, Sister Donna's ministry has been entirely based in her home state of Minnesota. She began in 1967 as a middle school teacher for

St. John the Baptist in Jordan. This was followed by her year in Chewelah, after which she returned to Minnesota. During this time, she earned her bachelor's degree from Mount Mary College (now University) and held teaching, administrative and pastoral ministry roles in the communities of Searles, Hampton, Lonsdale, North Branch, Kenyon, Montevideo, Springfield, St. Peter, Rosemont and Burnsville. In 2002, she moved to St. Paul and began a new ministry, serving in hospitality and management of the Highlands on Graham Retirement Center. From 2006-2013, she was the site coordinator for the East Side Learning Center. She returned to her teaching roots when she continued on with the East Side Learning Center an additional eight years as a professional tutor. Since 2021, Sister Donna divides her time between volunteer efforts, including hospice work throughout the St. Paul area and tutoring students in reading back at East Side Learning Center.

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

It always was a desire of mine to be a teacher, a mentor. As a Religious, I was able to accomplish that dream and enrich my spiritual life in a supportive community.

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

I would encourage others to take time to be open and aware of all the beauty that surrounds us - in creation and each individual we have the privilege of meeting.

CELEBRATE OUR JUBILARIANS

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School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province