

2025 Jubilee

SISTER MARIE THERESE NOWAKOWSKI

First Profession



July 12, 1955

Celebrating 70 years



For a full three decades, **Sister Marie Therese Nowakowski** was a dedicated teacher, guidance counselor and administrator for schools in her hometown of Milwaukee, as well as Kenosha, Whitefish Bay and Marinette, Wisconsin. She holds a bachelor's degree in education from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee, in 1964, a master's in education from Marquette University, Milwaukee, in 1969, and a master's in religious education from Saint Meinrad School of Theology, Saint Meinrad, Indiana, in 1982. In 1986, the range of her impact as an educator reached new borders and she began a series of ministries in

Africa. She recalls, "My years spent in the ministry of education and formation in Africa - Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya - are most cherished because they deepened my love for the people and their cultures and allowed me to know many of our African sisters personally." Sister Marie Therese began her African ministry with ten years spent in Ghana, which included teaching at Notre Dame Girls Secondary School and serving as postulant director. She returned to the U.S. in 1996 for a period of personal renewal, and then eight years of pastoral ministry at St. Therese Parish in Fort Wayne, Indiana. 2005 saw her return to Africa for four years, this time to the country of Nigeria, where she taught at the Formation House in Mbribit, Itam. In 2015, she made her third trip to Africa, working as co-director of an affiliate live-in program at the Kisumu Formation House in Kenya. 2017 brought her home once again, and she spent the next year in ministry discernment while serving in prayer and presence at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. In 2018, she made her home in Greenfield, Wisconsin, and now resides at Trinity Woods in Milwaukee, continuing her ministry of prayer, presence and community service.

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

Aware that I was being called to ministry in Africa, the Gospel of that particular day was the Scripture story of Bartimaeus and the words, "He (Jesus) is calling you. Of what are you afraid?" (Mark 10:49)
I knew God is ever Faithful; all is well.

In a word or phrase, describe your experience as a SSND.

Heartfelt joy and gratitude.

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