

# 2025 Jubilee

## SISTER MARY ANNE OWENS

First Profession



June 26, 1965

*Celebrating 60 years*



Born in New York City, **Sister Mary Anne Owens** has lived a ministry experience based largely in the southern states of Texas and Louisiana. She notes the opportunity for appointments, “in the southern American missions and in ministry to and with the immigrants and economically disadvantaged” was part of what drew her to be a School Sister of Notre Dame (SSND). Sister Mary Anne earned her bachelor’s degree in social studies education from Marywood College in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1967. She then achieved a master’s degree in geography from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana in 1974. She first served in Silver Springs

Maryland in elementary education, and then was transferred to Scranton to teach in a regional high school. Following her congregational transfer to SSND, she served as principal at Our Lady of Perpetual Help school in Dallas and then St. Peter school in Fort Worth. In 1978, she began the Justice and Peace office for the Diocese of Lafayette in Louisiana, a position she held for seven years. Following that, she was called to be a member of the Provincial Council for the Dallas Province from 1985-1993. During her year of renewal, she earned a certificate in gerontology from North Texas University in Denton and began her ministry with Catholic Charities in Dallas as an administrator of a social service center. For two years, she ministered in the Diocese of Rockville Center, New York in parish social ministry. In 1998, Catholic Charities of Dallas hired her as the executive director. During these eleven years, Catholic Charities added programs and personnel to meet the growing needs of refugees and immigrants coming into the Dallas area. Her position ended abruptly when she was elected the first provincial leader of the new Central Pacific Province. When asked about her most memorable ministries, she recalls, “Working with Catholic Charities of Dallas for 11 years as executive director of a very talented and diverse staff that consisted of over 75% immigrants or refugees. And then, being elected provincial of the Central Pacific Province for the first eight years of the merger. Both ministries were full of grace.” Since the conclusion of her time as provincial leader in 2019, she serves on the board of directors for Cristo Rey College Prep Dallas, is president of the Catholic Housing Initiative Board, and is on the board of directors of Central Dallas Community Development Corp.

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

The Spirit that was present at our second all-province gathering, full of joy and pain that was shared and celebrated, God was with us!

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School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province