

2025 Jubilee

SISTER MARY WARNER

First Profession



July 28, 1975

Celebrating 50 years



“The School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) opened a Catholic grade school in my hometown of Blue Earth, Minnesota, in 1952, the year I was born. I was attracted to ‘who’ I saw the SSND to be – to my teachers. I loved school and learning – somehow, I knew I wanted to be like the SSND.” From this early inspiration, **Sister Mary Warner** has fulfilled a ministry dedicated to teaching and education. After having earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee, in 1975, she immediately entered into her first teaching role at Notre Dame High School in Cresco, Iowa. From

there, she moved to St. Mary High School in New England, North Dakota for five years. From 1984-1985, she taught at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, while concurrently working toward - and earning - her master’s degree in English at the same institution. She continued her work at the higher education level, serving as a professor at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, before achieving her doctorate in English from the University of Michigan in 1992. For the decade between 1994-2004, she again taught at University of Michigan, as well as Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota, and Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. In 2006, she shared her depth of experience as an educator when she published her first book, *Adolescents in the Search for Meaning: Tapping the Powerful Resource of Story*. She also co-authored a second book in 2013 titled, *Teaching Writing Grades 7–12 in an Era of Assessment – Passion and Practice*. In May 2025, she celebrates her retirement from 50 years of teaching as she departs from her 20-years as professor and director of the English credential program at San José State University in San José, California.

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

I heard this quote, words of St. Peter Favre, one of the original companions of St. Ignatius Loyola. “Take care, take care, never to close your heart to anyone.” The rest of this quote included, “I long for this model of kindness open to dialogue and unity in a world that is so divided.” Favre’s words of the early 16th century absolutely resonate in 2025.

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

Two words: Eucharist
and Education.

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province