

2025 Jubilee

SISTER PAUL MARY DRAXLER

First Profession



July 20, 1950

Celebrating 75 years



From 1949 all the way up until 1988, **Sister Paul Mary Draxler** made her mark as a dedicated educator for students throughout Wisconsin. She started off teaching elementary grades at schools which included St. Patrick in Menasha, St. Leo in Milwaukee, St. Francis Xavier in DePere, St. Stephen in Rudolph and St. Stephen in Stevens Point. From 1967-1974, she took on the dual role of teacher and administrator for St. Augustine in Milwaukee. With the conclusion of that assignment, she went back to full-time teaching at St. Josh Baptist in Marshfield from 1974-1980, before she moved on to an administrator role at the

school an additional six years. From there, she spent two years caring for her parents in their home, while also teaching part time at a local technical institute. Following a period of renewal, her ministry took a more adventurous turn, as she embarked on a decades-long stint in the Marshall Islands. Sister Paul Mary lived on Ebeye, one of the more populated islands within the Marshall Islands chain. There, she was a junior high teacher, musician and a school administrator for Queen of Peace parish. She recalls the Marshallese ability to be accepting of all people as illustrated by Judah, one of the residents of Ebeye, who was born with a brain injury. "He was the only person, who at public gatherings, could take a social or religious leader's chair without being told to move. Another chair was simply found for the official. That, for me, is acceptance." In the summer of 1999, she returned to the U.S. and Wisconsin, and began her next teaching ministry for St. Mary School in Auburndale. In 2006, she would retire from teaching and begin a series of volunteer ministries, first in Marshfield, Wisconsin, and then over to Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. As of December 2021, she lives at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee and continues her ministry of prayer, presence and volunteering.

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

My sister, Mary Raymond, entered the aspiranture when I was three years old. I idolized her, and grew up expecting to join her. When the aspiranture was reopened in Milwaukee after I graduated from 8th grade, I applied. So here I am today.

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

Challenging and fulfilling.

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province