

CSA JUBILARIAN 2016

Name of Jubilarian: René Backe

Name of Birthplace/Hometown: Crown Point, IN

Education: Schools/colleges/universities attended and degrees received:

St. Agnes High School, Fond du Lac, WI – 1951-54

B.S. in Elementary Education – Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI

M.Ed.-Admin & Cur. – De Paul University, Chicago, IL

Master Christian Spirituality – Creighton University

Please name the places where you have ministered; if possible, list years. If you were a teacher, please name the parish or school, location, dates, and grade levels taught:

1958-61 St. Peter Claver School, Sheboygan, WI – Grade 5

1961-68 Immaculate Conception, Elmhurst, IL – Grade 6

1968-71 St. Isidore Parochial Elementary School, Cloverdale, IL – Principal & Grades 7 & 8

1971-73 Consolidated Parochial Elementary School, Marytown, WI – Principal

1973-74 St. Joseph, Fond du Lac, WI – Grade 8

1974-80 St. Mary, Eden, WI – Principal, Grades 6, 7, 8

1980-82 St. John, Defiance, OH – Grade 4

1982-83 Our Lady Help of Christians, Saginaw, MI – Grades 6 & 8

1983-85 St. Fidelis Parish, Victoria, KS – DRE

1985-87 Novice Directress, Fond du Lac, WI

1987-2007 Sacred Heart Parish, Farmington, NM – DRE 7 RCIA Director

2007-2009 Diocese of Gallup – Superintendent of Schools

2009-present Sacred Heart Retreat Center, Director, Academic Director, Deacon Formation Program, Vicar for Religious

Please provide a statement of 150 to 250 words using as your focus any or all of the following:

At the time of my silver jubilee a Capuchin friend asked me how I saw my vows of poverty, celibate chastity, and obedience related to my baptismal vows. That question stimulated some reflection and internal dialogue. In the back of my mind I knew there was a relationship but I had not articulated it for myself. In Baptism God names and claims us as God's own. God never abandons or reneges or gives up on us. As the silver years blended into gold, I realized Jubilee was not just a celebration of our fidelity and perseverance, but Jubilee acknowledges and celebrates mutual love and fidelity and delight between God and us. These past 60 years of being God's own, in addition to the baptismal years, have been years filled with God's blessings. Sometimes the blessings were disguised as challenges and crosses, but through the years God has been infinitely faithful and good.