

CSA JUBILARIAN 2017

Name of Jubilarian: Kathleen Cook

Name of Birthplace/Hometown: Brownsville, WI

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

St. Mary's Elementary, Lomira, WI

St. Mary's Springs Academy, Fond du Lac, WI

Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI – BS Education

University of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ – Graduate Studies

University of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ – Graduate Studies

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:

1968-69	St. Mary's School, Crown Point, IN – Grade 3
1969-70	St. Mary's School, Fond du Lac, WI – Grade 2
1970-71	St. Ignatius, Houghton, MI – Grade 3
1971-74	St. John the Baptist, New Haven, IN – Grade 4, 5, 6
1974-75	St. Luke, Two Rivers, WI – Grade 3
1975-79	St. Mark's, Two Rivers, WI – Grade 3
1979-82	St. Joseph's, Fond du Lac, WI – Grade 4
1982-86	St. Mary's, Fond du Lac, WI – Grade 5, 6
1986-96	Santa Cruz, Tucson, AZ – Grades 4, 5, 6
2000-07	Forgach House Domestic Crisis Shelter, Sierra Vista, AZ – Secretary
2007-09	Catholic Community Services, Bisbee, AZ – Administrative Secretary
Present	Goar Ranch, Bisbee, AZ – Retired

Share a story about a time, an event, or an experience in your vowed life that affirms or speaks to your lifelong commitment as a vowed woman religious.

Share what it means to you to be celebrating jubilee in CSA and in the global Church.

Share a poem, a prayer, a reflection that has captured for you, the story of your journey in religious life.

50 Years of Religious Life

Community is the first thought that came to mind as important when considering what it means to live religious life. As a fifteen-year-old I saw and felt it at an "open house" retreat at the Motherhouse. It called to me and so I responded. Here I am 56 years later and community is still valued.

My sense of satisfaction comes in the knowledge that I've never been afraid of learning something new. I call new things adventures. I took the challenge of teaching, made it an adventure and found it delightful. All the places where I've ministered – getting to know people from Houghton, Michigan to Bisbee, Arizona – have been great adventures.

What brings joy and happiness is the knowing that I've been able to enrich people I've encountered in my adventures. Life as a Sister of St. Agnes is good. I also find great happiness in nature. While living in Fond du Lac I found out that planting flowers was a way to touch a deeper part of me. When I moved to Arizona I took that knowledge along and have let it flourish. I've always loved animals so being close to them and

having them around puts a glow to my life and a lightness to my step. I've met a few horse people and that has meant getting to know their horses. I'm lucky now to be living with Lupe 'the cat' and her "cat person" Sister Susan.

Religious life is filled with challenges, but it's all worth it. The blessings of Community support, encouragement of your fellow Sisters, the freedom to love everyone equally and the ability to be yourself far outweighs the cost.