

CSA JUBILARIAN 2017

Name of Jubilarian: Mary Menke

Name of Birthplace/Hometown: Milwaukee, WI

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

Mother of Good Counsel, Milwaukee, WI – grade school

Messmer High School, Milwaukee, WI

Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI – BS Education

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:

St. Joseph, Rosemount, MI – primary grades

St. Mary, Oshkosh, WI – primary grades

Immaculate Conception, Elmhurst, IL – primary grades

Sacred Heart, Yonkers, NY – primary grades

Our Lady Queen of Angels, East Harlem, NY – primary grades

St. Augustine, West Allis, WI – primary grades

Present: Dominican Center, Milwaukee, WI – tutoring adults

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.

TRANSFORMATION

For the past three years I have been serving as a tutor for adults living in the “famous 53206” area of Milwaukee. Last February I was invited to speak to an African American Congregation at Good Will Church in Milwaukee. I accepted without hesitation. They hoped that I could describe how my student, Mia, and I struggled to break down the fence of racism which kept us from reaching the depths of love with which Jesus was gifting us.

It’s a long story, but that fence no longer exists. Our relationship has opened many, many doors of reality for both of us, some of which I had overlooked in the past. I never before realized that deep down within me was a little corner of racism which I had somehow buried.

As life continued on and I had a chance to examine that little corner of racism, I have experienced wonderful times of happiness due to my affiliation with women and men of color. This is where my vowed commitment of 50 years has taken me. I am so grateful to everyone who has accompanied me along the way.