

## CSA JUBILARIAN 2017

**Name of Jubilarian:** Rachel Doerfler

**Name of Birthplace/Hometown:** Hays, KS

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

Girls' Catholic High School, Hays, KS – grade 9

St. Agnes High School, Fond du Lac, WI – grades 10-12

Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI – BS Education

Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, IN – MA English

Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, Purchase, NY – MA Teaching Religion

**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:**

1942-44 St. Mary Grade School, Fond du Lac, WI – Grades 2, 3  
1944-50 St. Alphonsus Grade School, New Munster, WI – Grades 5, 6  
1950-51 Most Precious Blood Grade School, New London, WI – Grades 5, 6  
1951-56 Sacred Heart Grade School, Yonkers, NY – Grades 7, 8  
1956-59 St. John the Baptist Grade School, New Haven, IN – Grades 5, 6  
1959-65 St. Mary Grade School, Oshkosh, WI – Principal, Grade 8  
1965-66 Marian High School, Hays, KS – Grade 10, English & Religion  
1966-67 Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, Purchase, NY – year of study  
1967-69 Motherhouse, Fond du Lac, WI – Directress of Postulants  
1969-77 Motherhouse, Fond du Lac, WI – Vicar General of the Congregation of St. Agnes  
1977-78 Motherhouse, Fond du Lac, WI – Health Sabbatical  
1978-82 Thomas More-Marian High School, Hays, KS – Grade 10, English & Religion  
1982-90 Milwaukee, WI – Regional Coordinator of the Congregation of St. Agnes  
1990-91 Mt. Angel, Oregon – Prayer and Study Sabbatical  
1991-97 St. Louis the King Parish, Glendale, AZ – RCIA and Parish Adult Formation  
1997-2014 St. Louis the King Parish, Glendale, AZ – Church Art/Environment  
2014-present Motherhouse, Fond du Lac, WI – Retirement

*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.*

### WHY CELEBRATE A JUBILEE?

For two thousand years, people and churches that called themselves *Christian* have found ways to avoid the cost of discipleship. The prophets (e.g., Hosea and Micah) bemoaned the fact that faithfulness had disappeared from the earth and fidelity to promises was true only of God. We live in a culture like that where it seems words like *commitment, faithfulness, sacrifice, discipline* are not even in our vocabulary, much less in lives around us; that is why we need people who, by their lives, prove differently.

Through my fifth-grade teacher, Sister Petrina, God planted the seed of a vocation into my heart. The loving care and compassion she showed for the neediest among us spoke volumes to me and sparked my desire to find out what was behind her witness of life. After finishing my freshman

year in high school, I knew that it was all about being seized by Love and called to love God with an undivided heart. This call would be lived out with other faithful women who had given their lives fully to living in a love-relationship with God and with one another, and letting that love spill out in ministry.

When I made my vows in 1942, I was so sure of God's fidelity that I knew this was my life-time commitment of faithfulness, not counting the cost of whatever sacrifices were involved. Now, 75 years later, I hope and pray that my efforts to live "as a joyful witness of the Risen Christ" have shown others that *faithfulness* has not disappeared from the earth and *commitment* is still visible "where lives are connected at the level of the sacred."