

Name of Jubilarian: Sister Anne Matissek (formerly Sister M. Wilhelmine)

Name of Birthplace/Hometown: Atwood, Kansas

Education, schools attended, and degrees received:

St. Agnes High School, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin – Graduated 6/3/1937
Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI – Bachelor of Science, Education; 8/3/1951
Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska – Master of Arts-Education; 8/3/1956
Mobile Archdiocesan Religious Certification

Overview of positions held, locations, and dates where Sister Anne has ministered:

1939-Senior Novice, St. Mark's School, Two Rivers, WI; Elementary Teacher, Grades 5-6
1939-1941, St. Joseph's School, Fond du Lac, WI; Elementary Teacher, Grade 4
1941-1945, Holy Family School, Bronx, New York; Elementary Teacher, Grades 4-5-6
1945-1957, St. Joseph's School/Jefferson West, Hays, Kansas; Elementary Teacher, Grades 5-6
1957-1958, Beloit Catholic High School, Beloit, WI; High School Math, Grades 10-11
1958-1967, Sacred Heart High School, Yonkers, New York; High School Math, Grades 9- 12
1967-1971, St. Mary's Springs High School, Fond du Lac, WI; High School Math, Grades 9-10
1971-1980, Sacred Heart Grade School, Colby, Kansas; Principal & Elementary Teacher, Grades 4-5-6
1980-1981, Catholic Social Services Center, Mobile, Alabama; Charitable & Community Work
1981-1989, Our Savior Catholic Church, Mobile, Alabama; Religious Education Teacher
1989-2006, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Chickasaw, Alabama; Pastoral Associate
2006-Present, City of St. Jude, Montgomery, Alabama; Ministry of Presence/Retirement

Thoughts on Religious Life:

Seventy-five years ago when I entered the Convent of St. Agnes, I was asked: "Why did I come?"

My answer was a simple one: I wanted to serve God as a Sister.

Now I reflect on my formation years. When I was a student in Sister Annella's poetry class, an assignment was given to choose a poem that had special meaning to us and read it to the class. I chose "The House by the Side of the Road (Sam Walter Foss)." Once again I was asked, "Why this poem?" My answer was that it says or expresses my desires.

After serving 41 years in elementary and secondary education in three states, and as Principal in Colby, Kansas, I was assigned to help at the Catholic Social Services Center, Mobile, Alabama, in 1980. This was a turning point in my ministry. Father Patrick Gallagher spoke to us about the great need for help in Religious Education in the parishes. He asked that I come to Our Savior Church (a house on the side of the road) and minister to the needs in the CCD program. After serving there for nine years, I was called to be a Pastoral Associate at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church (a house on the side of the road) in Chickasaw, Alabama. I remained there for 17 years until my retirement in 2006.

These two places truly fulfilled the questions, "Why did I come?" and "Why did I choose?" I always knew that God chose me to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him.

I am very grateful and happy for the years in ministry.