



2026 JUBILEE

Celebrating 70 years

Sister Mary Martin Voglewede

STORIES FROM MINISTRY

When I was young, it was considered heroic to leave home, give up possessions, and give oneself totally to God. In my idealism of seeking the best to give in life, I gratefully and blindly accepted God's call to join a group of women I admired, and who believed in me. Just like marriage or single pursuits, I was surprised and challenged by the demands of my chosen vocation as they unfolded. Conformity, silence, and structure were very hard—but they were part of the package. Love and Beloved triumphed to celebrate 25 years.

Then Vatican II sent the next heroic mandate to the whole church, but to the religious first. Authenticity of life, social needs, and institutional structures were challenged. The new call went forth. My sisters and I accepted, moved out of convent security, away from institutional life, and into simple dress. We went to the outreaches to the poor and the marginal. We pioneered new ministries that separated us from our sister co-workers, friends, and families. Long years of continuous change and transition to mainstream life required high energy, deeper love, indeed, and a new theology, recommitment, and many tears.

But, the fruit is—that we are living the mission of Jesus—with Jesus—as His instruments of peace and non-violence— through courageous endeavors and outrageous hope. It is very clear to me that I have “come this far by Faith—leaning on the Lord.”

“What is it you plan to do with your one, wild, precious life?” - *Mary Oliver*

WORDS OF ADVICE

Help each other by complementing the good and beautiful. Be strong in your courage.

A BLESSING TO SHARE

May you live each day with positive energy, ready to listen. May you have the courage to speak up for what is right and just.



FIRST PROFESSION

1956

BIRTHPLACE/HOMETOWN

Decatur, IN

EDUCATION

St. Joseph Elementary • Decatur, IN

Grades 1-8

Decatur Catholic High • Decatur, IN

Grades 9-12

Marian College • Fond du Lac, WI

B.S. Education

**Moraine Park Technical College
Fond du Lac, WI**

CNA

Marquette University • Milwaukee, WI

M.Ed.



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MINISTRY SITES

1956 -
1958

**St. Mary's
Fond du Lac, WI**
Teacher (Grade 6)

1958 -
1960

**St. Florian's
Milwaukee, WI**
Teacher (Grade 6)

1960 -
1967

**St. Mark's
Two Rivers, WI**
Teacher (Grade 6)

1967 -
1969

**St. Nicholas
Evanston, IL**
Departmental 7th & 8th Grades

1969 -
1972

**St. Mary's
Nanty Glo, PA**
Principal & Teacher (Grade 7)

1972 -
1977

**St. Luke's & TRCCS (Consolidation)
Two Rivers, WI**
Departmental 6th & 8th Grades

1977 -
1978

**Immaculate Conception
Elmhurst, IL**
Teacher (Grades 7 & 8)

1978 -
1982

**St. Mary's
Eden, WI**
Teacher (Grades 6 & 8)

1982 -
1983

**St. Mary's
Altoona, PA**
Teacher (Grade 6)

1985 -
1987

**CSA Retirement Home
Decatur, IN**

1987 -
1991

**Unity House
Chicago, IL**
Neighborhood Outreach

1992 -
2002

L'Arche • Mobile, AL
*House parent to severe mentally and
physically challenged adults*

2004 -
2007

Sojourner Truth House • Gary, IN
*Helping homeless and at-risk women
and children*

2004 -
2005

Sabbatical/Retired

2007 -

**Nazareth Court/Center
Fond du Lac, WI**
Retired