



2026 JUBILEE

Celebrating 70 years

## Sister René Backe

### STORIES FROM MINISTRY

One time when I had doubts and questions about my commitment as a vowed woman religious I happened to glance at the gold ring on my finger. I remembered the words of the Archbishop when I received the ring: "Receive this ring as a sign of God's fidelity." Jubilee is more about God's fidelity in living this consecrated life than mine. It is God's fidelity that strengthens mine.

### WORDS OF ADVICE

Like Christ, we come to do the Father's will. We are not in this alone. We have God and each other. God shares divine gifts and powers and charisms with us through the divine indwelling within each of us, through the sacraments, through community through all the various gifts of the Trinity, and through the love that binds us together. When Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes he engaged the disciples in helping him nourish the crowd.

### A BLESSING TO SHARE

It is such, a precious blessing to be alive, to sense, know, believe, trust in, and be empowered by God's intense personal love for each of us. "Just to be is a blessing. To live is holy." - *Rabbi Abraham Heschel*

### HOW CSA CHARISM INSPIRES ME

Our CSA charism of hospitality continues to inspire me in welcoming persons of different religions, who are on different paths to God, who come to me for spiritual direction. I am inspired by their sincere and serious desire to deepen their relationship with God. Their earnest seeking for spiritual growth urges me to continue to be desirous and faithful in my own relationship with God, in deepening that oneness with God and with others that Jesus speaks about in John's gospel.



### FIRST PROFESSION

1956

### BIRTHPLACE/HOMETOWN

Crown Point, IN

### EDUCATION

**St. Agnes High School • Fond du Lac, WI**  
*High School*

**Marian College • Fond du Lac, WI**

*B.S. in Elementary Education*

**De Paul University • Chicago, IL**

*M.Ed.-Admin & Cur.*

**Creighton University • Omaha, NE**

*Master Christian Spirituality*



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### MINISTRY SITES

1958 -  
1961

**St. Peter Claver School**  
**Sheboygan, WI**  
*Teacher (Grade 5)*

1985 -  
1987

**CSA Motherhouse**  
**Fond du Lac, WI**  
*Novice Directress*

1961 -  
1968

**Immaculate Conception**  
**Elmhurst, IL**  
*Teacher (Grade 6)*

1987 -  
2007

**Sacred Heart Parish**  
**Farmington, NM**  
*DRE & RCIA Director*

1968 -  
1971

**St. Isidore Parochial Elementary**  
**School • Cloverdale, IL**  
*Principal & Teacher (Grades 7 & 8)*

2002 -  
2006

**Sacred Heart Parish**  
**Farmington, NM**  
*Regional Coordinator for Southwest*

1971 -  
1973

**Consolidated Parochial Elementary**  
**School • Marytown, WI**  
*Principal*

2004 -  
2006

**Sacred Heart Parish**  
**Farmington, NM**  
*Regional Coordinator for Southeast*

1973 -  
1974

**St. Joseph**  
**Fond du Lac, WI**  
*Teacher (Grade 8)*

2007 -  
2009

**Diocese of Gallup**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

1974 -  
1980

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

2009 -  
2024

**Sacred Heart Retreat Center**  
*Director, Academic Director, Deacon*  
*Formation Program, Vicar for Religious*

1980 -  
1982

**St. John**  
**Defiance, OH**  
*Teacher (Grade 4)*

2024 -

**Fond du Lac, WI**  
*Spiritual Director & Retreat*  
*Facilitator*

1982 -  
1983

**Our Lady Help of Christians**  
**Saginaw, MI**  
*Teacher (Grades 6 & 8)*

1983 -  
1985

**St. Fidelis Parish**  
**Victoria, KS**  
*DRE*