

CSA JUBILARIAN 2019

Name of Jubilarian: Mary Dennis McMahon

Name of Birthplace/Hometown: Chicago, IL

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

Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI – BS Elementary Education

Fordham University, Bronx, NY – MS Elementary Education

De Paul University, Chicago, IL – 12 graduate credits in Administration

Manhattan College, Bronx, NY – 16 graduate credits in Secondary Administration

Catholic University, Washington, DC – additional graduate credits

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:

1949-60 Yonkers, NY; Nanty Glo, PA; Evanston, IL; Bronx, NY – Grades 1 & 2
1960-63 Sacred Heart, Yonkers, NY – Grade 5
1963-69 St. Zachary, Des Plaines, IL – Principal
1969-75 St. Nicholas, Evanston, IL – Principal; Innovative IGE Program; Junior High Teacher
1975-79 Sacred Heart, Yonkers, NY – Co-principal with Christian Brothers
1979-80 Presentation School, North Fond du Lac, WI – Junior High Teacher
1980-82 Catholic Schools, Fort Wayne/South Bend, IN Diocese – Associate Superintendent
1982-86 Beloit Catholic High School, Beloit, WI – Principal
1986-87 St. Joseph School, Fort Wayne, IN – Librarian & Auxiliary Services
1987-88 St. Mary School, Crown Point, IN – Junior High Librarian & Substitute Teacher
1988-92 St. Joseph School, Chicago, IL – Principal
1992- St. Thomas of Canterbury, Chicago, IL – Assistant Principal

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.

Sister Mary Dennis was an excellent teacher and principal. Her educational leadership was well-noted at St. Joseph Parish school in Chicago, which was located across the street from Cabrini Green Housing Project which was notorious, extremely dangerous and surrounded by empty space in order to buffer it from Chicago's Gold Coast which was wealthy.

When Sister Mary Dennis decided to apply for the principalship everyone was flabbergasted – the Archdiocese, the pastor, the search committee.

The school was run-down and empty – no teachers, no books, no basic supplies, and no money. But school started on time in August – ready and prepared. Sister Mary Dennis made sure of that.

The parents soon understood that their children were Sister's top priority. They trusted Sister Mary Dennis to keep them safe and above all, that she expected them to learn.

To help with the needs of the children Sister began an afterschool tutoring program and the goal was to provide every child a tutor. This call was answered by the amazing young adults. Relationships developed and grew through the years together. The program expanded into high school and is still in existence today. In Chicago it is regarded as an outstanding program.

Thanks to Sister Mary Dennis, you have touched more lives than you will ever know.