

CSA JUBILARIAN 2018

Name of Jubilarian: Josephine Goebel

Name of Birthplace/Hometown: Fond du Lac, WI

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

1941-43 Willowlawn School, Grades 1 & 2
1943-50 St. Mary's School, Fond du Lac, WI – Grades 3-8
1950-54 St. Mary's Springs Academy, Fond du Lac, WI
1954-59 Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI – BS Education
1961-69 St. Francis College, Fort Wayne, IN – MS Education
1987-88 St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO

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:

1958-59 Presentation School, North Fond du Lac, WI – Grade 4
1959-61 St. John, Defiance, OH – Grades 1 & 2
1961-65 St. Luke, Two Rivers, WI – Grade 1
1965-68 St. Joseph School, Decatur, IN – Grade 1 & 4
1968-71 St. Mary, Crown Point, IN – Grades 5 & 6, Junior High
1971-73 St. Mark, Two Rivers, WI – Principal & Junior High Teacher
1973-75 St. Henry, Fort Wayne, IN – Junior High Teacher
1975-81 CPES, St. Cloud, WI – Principal & Junior High Teacher
1981-82 St. Mary, Lomira, WI – Junior High
1982-83 Merilac Lodge, Tucson, AZ – Ministry with unwed mothers
1983-87 St. John, Defiance, OH – Grades 3 & 4 and 5 & 6
1988-90 St. Bernard, Navajo, NM – Pastoral Ministry
1990-91 St. Michael School, St. Michaels, AZ – Grade 5
1991-12 St. Michael Parish, St. Michaels, AZ
2012-17 St. John the Evangelist, Houck, AZ -- Administrator
2017-present St. Agnes Convent, Fond du Lac, WI – Retired

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.

I had thought of donating the Navajo vase to the Navajo Nation Museum, but two days before I retired, Ernie, an elder, and I talked. “You can take the vase with you to Wisconsin. You will care for it and your people will appreciate it,” he commented.

Twenty years ago the family of a recently deceased elderly weaver had given me the black, (unattractive?) vase that looked as though it had been used in many a traditional ceremony. Over the decades the pottery has come to symbolize the many “gifts” I received from a lifetime ministry of education and especially from pastoral ministry with the Navajo people.

Our CSA Constitutions remind us, “We are enriched by those we serve.” Among the many gifts Native Americans taught me was to find beauty hidden in the ordinary, in casual conversations like preparing food for Kateri Circle breakfasts, and taking time to celebrate family ceremonies. Sunsets on the red cliffs and mountains reinforced their example of patient endurance.

Early in our Navajo ministry, Ruth, a Navajo elder, taught us how to cut pine branches for Christmas decorations. Find a lovely branch. Give praise and thanks for it. Then reverently cut what you need from other branches. When finished with their use return them to Mother Earth. The longer I lived among the Navajos the more I learned how they practiced prayer for almost every action throughout the day. They even have a journey song for taking a car ride. How like our Novitiate training and life-long attempts to practice the Presence of God in all things.

Today, my thanks go to our Loving God who helped me grow by becoming a Sister of St. Agnes, by teaching, and by ministering with Native Americans.