

SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME GUAM REGION UPDATE

GOLDEN JUBILARIANS

July 8, 2006 was a day of triple celebrations for the School Sisters of Notre Dame as they celebrated the life commitment of Sisters Bernadette Quintanilla, Tarcisia Sablan, and Mary Bernard Unpingco.

S. Bernadette entered the Notre Dame Aspiranture on February 2, 1953. She was received as a Postulant at the Milwaukee Motherhouse in 1954. In June 1955, she was received as a Novice and in 1962, she took final vows.

Sister Bernadette received her BA from the University of Guam and her MA from Fordham University,

She has served as an educator spanning over lakes and oceans in schools in Indiana, Wisconsin and on Guam

One of her most treasured memories of her fifty years in religious life was when she committed her final "Yes" to God when she took her final vows in 1962. Her message to the youth is to "remain faithful in your relationship with the God who loves you unconditionally".

S. Tarcisia was born on July 21, 1944. Liberation Day, July 21, 1944, other than the day of her birth, has very special meaning to her. It was the day the US forces stormed the island and reclaimed it during WWII.

Her family was not spared the atrocities of the war. Her brother Nick was among the young men that was forced into a cave at Fena, left to starve and then was eventually killed. Her older sister, Alfonsina, was also a victim of the inhuman actions prevalent during this time. Other family members were not spared also. As challenging as this time was for her, her vocation was on fire.

S. Tarcisia is grateful for the gift of her vocation. Being a School Sister of Notre Dame has helped her tremendously as it has given her the freedom to be all that she can be.

S. Tarcisia currently serves as a missionary at St. Mary's in Yap, FSM. When asked what prompted her to serve as a missionary, she replied "It's God. He is my motivator. I do it for God."

At my age, the only logical reason why I moved to Yap is that I felt compelled to share God's manifold blessings with God's people."

S. Mary Bernard entered the Aspiranture in 1952. In 1954, she was sent to the SSND Motherhouse in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1956, she was professed.

S. Mary Bernard received her BA degree from Maryknoll College (Miriam College) and her MA degree from the University of Guam.

As an educator, she served in schools in Wisconsin, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Chuuk and Yap.

In addition to teaching, S. Mary Bernard served as Regional Leader & Councilor for the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Her missionary spirit has led her back to St. Mary's in Yap where she currently ministers to God's people.

In grateful thanksgiving for their 50 years of service to the Church on Guam, hundreds of people joined in the celebration in July.