Day in the Life of a Sister

School Sisters of Notre Dame have ministered in the diocese for more than 100 years

By LeAnn Eckroth

In the sixth feature of “A Day in the life of a Sister,” Sr. Ivo Schoch shares her faith journey with the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND).

Sr. Ivo attributes her love of learning, parents, Jerome and Emma (Binstock) Schoch, for raising 14 children in the Catholic faith and her SSND teachers in both grade school and high school for leading her to the call of religious life.

The family farmed between Scheinfeld and New England, N.D. where she garnered a strong work ethic at an early age. With five brothers and eight sisters, she learned how to interact and live with others. By hand, fed chickens, hoed the garden, shocked grain, cooked and baked, along with many other daily chores.

Sr. Ivo celebrated her 62nd jubilee—62 years as a School Sister of Notre Dame, an order that has been ministering in the Diocese of Bismarck for more than 100 years. The SSNDs deep emphasis on ministry opportunities and other spiritual direction, celebrations, prayer shawls, Corpus Christi's, and support services. The first SSND arrived in the United States in 1865. The first SSND arrived in the Bismarck Diocese in 1917 where hundreds have ministered these past 105 years. Though there was never a convent established here, 65 young women from our diocese were called to follow Jesus' mission in bringing God's love wherever I have lived and served. I like being a sister and I am happy. I know I have chosen well.

For fun, I enjoy a Sudoku, other brain games, and gatherings, be they with my SSND sisters, friends, or family. I also enjoy nature, finding God as I walk in the wilderness, aTwins game in St. Paul. I treasure my SSND brothers and eight sisters, she has been ministering for 38 years. Sr. Ivo attributes her loving to her SSND teachers in both grade school and high school. I am going to be a sister.

The goodness and happiness of Sr. Emma Buresh, my sixth-grade teacher most inspired me and encouraged me to be a sister. She told me to keep praying and discerning.

Today I want to say to young girls and women, “Have you ever felt the calling to become a sister?” Or to fourth and fifth graders, “It’s not too early to pay attention to how God might be calling you.”

School Sisters of Notre Dame have ministered in the diocese for more than 100 years.

Sister Ivo’s current ministry is parish outreach in the Corpus Christi in Bismarck.

What is your typical day like?

After rising for prayer at 5:30 a.m., I am dressed for work by 7 a.m., I am dressed for work by 7 a.m. Daily meditation and quiet are important to me. I appreciate attending Mass at Corpus Christi parish where I have been a member for nearly 40 years. When a sister’s funeral is held in our provincial house in Mankato, it is wonderful to celebrate her life with our community via Zoom.

Today I want to say to young girls and women, “Have you ever felt the calling to become a sister?” Or to fourth and fifth graders, “It’s not too early to pay attention to how God might be calling you.”

When did you make your final vows?

I made my first vows in 1965, and my final vows in 1966, all in our motherhouse chapel at Good Counsel in the Bismarck Diocese in 1917 where hundreds have ministered these past 105 years. Though there was never a convent established here, 65 young women from our diocese became a School Sister of Notre Dame.

During this time, she has the opportunity to prayer life and experience intercultural community living in preparation for the many calls to follow Jesus' mission in bringing God's love wherever I have lived and served. I like being a sister and I am happy. I know I have chosen well.

Sr. Ivo’s current ministry is parish outreach in the Corpus Christi in Bismarck.

What do you do for fun?

For fun, I enjoy a Sudoku, other brain games, and gatherings, be they with my SSND sisters, friends, or family. I also enjoy nature, finding God as I walk in the wilderness, a Twins game in St. Paul. I treasure my SSND brothers and eight sisters, she has been ministering for 38 years. Sr. Ivo attributes her loving to her SSND teachers in both grade school and high school.

I know I have chosen well.

Sister Ivo’s current ministry is parish outreach in the Corpus Christi in Bismarck.

What is your typical day like?

After rising for prayer at 5:30 a.m., I am dressed for work by 7 a.m., I am dressed for work by 7 a.m. Daily meditation and quiet are important to me. I appreciate attending Mass at Corpus Christi parish where I have been a member for nearly 40 years. When a sister’s funeral is held in our provincial house in Mankato, it is wonderful to celebrate her life with our community via Zoom.

Today I want to say to young girls and women, “Have you ever felt the calling to become a sister?” Or to fourth and fifth graders, “It’s not too early to pay attention to how God might be calling you.”

What is your typical day like?

After rising for prayer at 5:30 a.m., I am dressed for work by 7 a.m., I am dressed for work by 7 a.m. Daily meditation and quiet are important to me. I appreciate attending Mass at Corpus Christi parish where I have been a member for nearly 40 years. When a sister’s funeral is held in our provincial house in Mankato, it is wonderful to celebrate her life with our community via Zoom.

Today I want to say to young girls and women, “Have you ever felt the calling to become a sister?” Or to fourth and fifth graders, “It’s not too early to pay attention to how God might be calling you.”

When did you make your final vows?

I made my first vows in 1965, and my final vows in 1966, all in our motherhouse chapel at Good Counsel in the Bismarck Diocese in 1917 where hundreds have ministered these past 105 years. Though there was never a convent established here, 65 young women from our diocese became a School Sister of Notre Dame.

During this time, she has the opportunity to prayer life and experience intercultural community living in preparation for the many calls to follow Jesus' mission in bringing God's love wherever I have lived and served. I like being a sister and I am happy. I know I have chosen well.

Sr. Ivo’s current ministry is parish outreach in the Corpus Christi in Bismarck.

What do you do for fun?

For fun, I enjoy a Sudoku, other brain games, and gatherings, be they with my SSND sisters, friends, or family. I also enjoy nature, finding God as I walk in the wilderness, a Twins game in St. Paul. I treasure my SSND brothers and eight sisters, she has been ministering for 38 years. Sr. Ivo attributes her loving to her SSND teachers in both grade school and high school.

I know I have chosen well.

Sister Ivo’s current ministry is parish outreach in the Corpus Christi in Bismarck.

What is your typical day like?

After rising for prayer at 5:30 a.m., I am dressed for work by 7 a.m., I am dressed for work by 7 a.m. Daily meditation and quiet are important to me. I appreciate attending Mass at Corpus Christi parish where I have been a member for nearly 40 years. When a sister’s funeral is held in our provincial house in Mankato, it is wonderful to celebrate her life with our community via Zoom.

Today I want to say to young girls and women, “Have you ever felt the calling to become a sister?” Or to fourth and fifth graders, “It’s not too early to pay attention to how God might be calling you.”

When did you make your final vows?

I made my first vows in 1965, and my final vows in 1966, all in our motherhouse chapel at Good Counsel in the Bismarck Diocese in 1917 where hundreds have ministered these past 105 years. Though there was never a convent established here, 65 young women from our diocese became a School Sister of Notre Dame.

During this time, she has the opportunity to prayer life and experience intercultural community living in preparation for the many calls to follow Jesus' mission in bringing God's love wherever I have lived and served. I like being a sister and I am happy. I know I have chosen well.

Sr. Ivo’s current ministry is parish outreach in the Corpus Christi in Bismarck.

What do you do for fun?

For fun, I enjoy a Sudoku, other brain games, and gatherings, be they with my SSND sisters, friends, or family. I also enjoy nature, finding God as I walk in the wilderness, a Twins game in St. Paul. I treasure my SSND brothers and eight sisters, she has been ministering for 38 years. Sr. Ivo attributes her loving to her SSND teachers in both grade school and high school.

I know I have chosen well.

Sister Ivo’s current ministry is parish outreach in the Corpus Christi in Bismarck.

What is your typical day like?

After rising for prayer at 5:30 a.m., I am dressed for work by 7 a.m., I am dressed for work by 7 a.m. Daily meditation and quiet are important to me. I appreciate attending Mass at Corpus Christi parish where I have been a member for nearly 40 years. When a sister’s funeral is held in our provincial house in Mankato, it is wonderful to celebrate her life with our community via Zoom.

Today I want to say to young girls and women, “Have you ever felt the calling to become a sister?” Or to fourth and fifth graders, “It’s not too early to pay attention to how God might be calling you.”

When did you make your final vows?

I made my first vows in 1965, and my final vows in 1966, all in our motherhouse chapel at Good Counsel in the Bismarck Diocese in 1917 where hundreds have ministered these past 105 years. Though there was never a convent established here, 65 young women from our diocese became a School Sister of Notre Dame.

During this time, she has the opportunity to prayer life and experience intercultural community living in preparation for the many calls to follow Jesus' mission in bringing God's love wherever I have lived and served. I like being a sister and I am happy. I know I have chosen well.

Sr. Ivo’s current ministry is parish outreach in the Corpus Christi in Bismarck.

What do you do for fun?

For fun, I enjoy a Sudoku, other brain games, and gatherings, be they with my SSND sisters, friends, or family. I also enjoy nature, finding God as I walk in the wilderness, a Twins game in St. Paul. I treasure my SSND brothers and eight sisters, she has been ministering for 38 years. Sr. Ivo attributes her loving to her SSND teachers in both grade school and high school.

I know I have chosen well.