

Woman celebrates 60th anniversary with Sisters of the Precious Blood

DAYTON — As a sixth-grader at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in her native Cleveland, Sister Mary Ellen (M. de Montfort) Andrisin first came into the contact with the Fathers and Sisters of the Precious Blood.

The Sisters' community living she witnessed influenced her to eventually join them, and she entered the community Jan. 31, 1954.

Sister Mary Ellen is among a dozen Precious Blood Sisters celebrating milestone Jubilees in 2014.

The sisters were honored June 29 in Dayton, and individual celebrations will occur throughout the year at the sisters' hometowns and places of ministry.

She spent the first 20 years of ministry teaching in Ohio, Missouri, Indiana and North Dakota. A four-year stint as director of religious education at St. Michael Parish in Independence, Ohio, followed.

She later ministered as director of pastoral care at Maria-Joseph Center in Dayton, pastoral associate at St. Mary Parish in Wooster and coordinator of resident life at the community's central house in Dayton.

In 2001, Sister Mary Ellen transitioned to a new ministry as a pil-



grim guide at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue, Ohio. She moved to Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics in 2005 as pilgrim guide and program director until her retirement in 2011.

She continues to volunteer at Maria Stein, and is a RCIA catechist at St. Augustine Parish in Minster.

Sister holds a bachelor's in education from the University of Dayton, a master's in science

from Virginia State College and a certificate in Theology from St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis.

"There have indeed been many blessings over these 60 years," Sister Mary Ellen said.

"I am filled with gratitude to my sisters for the rich experience of living and ministering with them in many diverse ways. I look forward to the continuing graces of living religious life as it ever evolves."