



## **RUBEN HERNANDEZ, *teaching with a servant's heart***

Ruben Hernandez was first introduced to the Sisters of Notre Dame during the summer of 1979 when he began his work as a tutor at St. Helen's Elementary School in South Gate. He stayed there for two years, teaching fourth grade. Eventually, he took a teaching position at St. Joseph High School in Lakewood.

When Ruben reflected on his time spent with the SNDs in the school and the parish, his first impressions of their ministries, especially in the realm of education, were clear. He says, "They taught me about Divine Providence. Although I was new to the term, I was able to see them live it by example. I was also moved by their dedication to educating children, not only in the United States, but all over the world."

Ruben spent nearly 30 years in the Los Angeles Unified School District system. After retiring as an administrator and teacher, he was recruited by the

California State University system, becoming a professor of teacher preparation and overseeing the credentialing program at Cal State, Dominguez Hills.

Ruben believes that his extensive work with countless students over the years has been an incredible privilege. He still attributes his humble beginnings as a teacher to SND influence: "They helped me live a purposeful life, and I remain indebted to them for having given me my first teaching opportunity. Their style of teaching was imparting the joy of learning through the Holy Spirit. We are to use our talents and strengths to assist those around us while giving proper credit to God."

The SNDs thank Ruben for sharing this spirit of servanthood with many children and educational professionals in Southern California. His life and commitment demonstrate the powerful influence of a servant's heart.