

2013 Jubilee



First Profession
July 31, 1963

JUBILEE WISDOM

*LET GO and LET GOD
BE IN CHARGE...
grace and transformation...
be faithful to your
inner journey...*

-Laura Jean Spaeth, SSND



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Laura Jean Spaeth, SSND

50 Years

Sister *Laura Jean* has ministered as a formal educator in rural, inner city, and faraway places; educating for justice at provincial and international levels; facilitating spiritual development through directing renewal programs, retreats, and prayer days; and 16 years of congregational leadership which found her experiencing SSND in at least 25 different countries. Through all of these rich immersions, she developed a global heart and feels herself to be, first and above all, a world citizen. Ministry locations in Wisconsin included: St. Leo, St. Anne and the Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Office in Milwaukee; St. Francis Xavier in Superior; and the SSND Provincial Offices in Milwaukee and Elm Grove. She served at the SSND Generalate in Rome as a resource person from 1982-1985 and was elected to two terms on the General Council from 1998-2008. Following a sabbatical, she served as campus minister for three years at the Newman Center in Rolla, Mo. She is currently ministering in the Diocese of Jefferson City, Mo. as a spiritual companion and prayer facilitator. Sister Laura Jean earned a bachelor's in sociology and English from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a master's in theology and spirituality from Regis College in Toronto.

I have been so blessed to have been called to a variety of ministries

which stretched this farm girl to the world. My international experiences – especially my having been in so many places where food, water, and housing are totally inadequate – are imbedded in my memory and call me to live in solidarity with them. I often ponder: “Why have I been so blessed and have access to abundant resources, when so many of my brothers and sisters all over the world live and die in utter poverty?” The last judgment of Matthew 25 continues to haunt me in my lifestyle. The BLESSINGS of my ministry experiences are far beyond my understanding or words. I am just eternally grateful.

The wisdom I would like to share is

- The sooner we learn to LET GO and to LET GOD BE IN CHARGE, the happier and wiser we will be.
- Within every struggle and difficulty lies the opportunity for grace and transformation.
- AND, be faithful to your inner journey – choose to be Mary in the midst of this Martha world.
(PS – I am still struggling to live in the wisdom of these and will until the end.)

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

I feel as if I was born an SSND – my oldest sister was already an SSND when I was young; I had SSNDs as educators in grade and high school, as well as in college; and I loved so many of them because they radiated love and concern. I wanted to be like them and to be an educator. Being SSND was in my blood and genes.