

2013 Jubilee



First Profession
July 31, 1963

JUBILEE WISDOM

*Relationships and sharing
our faith are more important
than any things.*

-Jean Paul Zagorski, SSND



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Jean Paul Zagorski, SSND

50 Years

Sister Jean Paul has served in variety of educational and health ministries located in culturally diverse locations. Her teaching assignments in Wisconsin included: St. Augustine, Milwaukee; St. Joseph Orphanage, Green Bay; and St. Nicholas, Milwaukee. In Michigan, she taught at Holy Name Central, Escanaba; Holy Childhood, Harbor Springs; and St. William, Walled Lake. Sister Jean Paul coordinated religious education at Sacred Heart in Emmonak, Ala. and taught special education at Queen of Peace in Ebeye, Marshall Islands. She began working in health ministry, initially as an aide with occupational and physical therapies. With further studies, she became a massage therapist. In addition to doing massage therapy, she responded to a call in 2010 to join the SSND community in Laredo, Texas where she served in volunteer ministry and taught religion at Our Lady of Guadalupe School. Sister Jean Paul earned a bachelor's in German and English from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a master's in educational psychology from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis.

A blessing I've experienced has been living in good communities

in many different cultures. From the children on Milwaukee's south side, to a residential school for delinquent boys, to Native American children, to special needs students in Milwaukee, to Alaska with the Yupik Eskimos, to the sick and elderly in a nursing home, to becoming a massage therapist, to teaching in the Marshall Islands, to an Hispanic community in Laredo as religion teacher and massage therapist, again. Through all these opportunities I had support of my SSND families and learned much from their wisdom and guidance. The values of all these people were a special grace of how we get to know God through others.

The wisdom I've learned is that relationships and sharing our faith

are more important than any things.

I was drawn to SSND by the sisters who were my teachers

in grade school. Every Lent we had movies of missionaries in China and Africa to encourage us to donate for their needs. I thought I could help those missionaries. Even though the films were about Maryknoll sisters and priests, viewing them prompted my reflection on how to know and serve God. It led me to being a sister.

Somehow each ministry I was called to by God gave me the grace

to go to the next one. Catching water in barrels during the summer in Alaska helped me to live with little water. That was teaching me to be OK with simpler ways of living in the Marshall Islands. It also taught me to respect the environment and God's wonderful nature. All my ministries had challenges and fun!