



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2017 Jubilee

Celebrating 70 years
First Profession—7/31/1947

Sister Mary Luke Baldwin, SSND

Sister Mary Luke's early ministry years following her 1947 profession of first vows took her to high schools in the Dioceses of La Crosse, Wisconsin, and Chicago. She spent several years in advanced theological studies in Rome during the mid-1950s, followed by a decade-long ministry at Notre Dame of the Lake in Mequon, Wisconsin, as a part-time professor at Mount Mary University and communications director for the Mequon Province. From 1967 to 1968, she was the novice director at Mequon. From 1968 through 1977, she served as a member of the General Council based at the SSND Generalate in Rome. She returned to Milwaukee, serving the Archdiocese of Milwaukee as director of communications from 1978 through 1986. Following another interim period in Rome, she undertook a ministry as an independent media consultant, holding that role until the late 1990s and serving at Notre Dame of Elm Grove's provincial offices until 2007. She moved to Notre Dame of Elm Grove in 2003, and she continues to reside there, ministering in prayer and presence. She holds a bachelor's in English with minors in speech and biology from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee. She later earned a master's in English from Chicago's Loyola University, and a master's in theology from Pontifical Institute Regina Mundi in Rome, Italy.



A reflection I have to share...

The year before I entered, a young priest gave me a book: DeCaussade's *Abandonment to Divine Providence*. "Maybe you can use it," he said. I was 21. It prayed me into SSND. During my long life, its message has continued to open me to reality, to loving presence, to depending on the Holy Spirit when given surprising assignments, uncovering talents I didn't know I had, trusting in love, and knowing that without God I can do nothing. Along the way, people and places brought new meaning and new challenges to this love. For example, 15 years of study and service in Rome opened my mind and heart to our international reality, especially during our time of renewal and efforts at dialogue before, during and after General Chapters. I realized that from the time of Blessed Theresa herself, we as a geographically diverse congregation had understood abandonment to Divine Providence. And I trust in a tomorrow of love.

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