



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

2022 Jubilee

Sister Mary Lauren Spence, SSND

First Profession - July 15, 1947 | Celebrating 75 Years



Celebrate Our Jubilarians

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Story

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Sister

A memory I have to share...

I loved teaching. One happening was when five football players were sitting outside my classroom and said, "We have come to teach you football, and you have come to teach us art." I was touched by the trust in me with students sharing.



Sister Mary Lauren Spence was born in Mankato, Minnesota, and made first profession there in 1947. That same year she began her ministry in Minnesota, teaching at St. Francis de Sales, St. Paul; St. Peter, Hokah; St. Michael, St. Michael; and Our Lady of Good Counsel Academy, Mankato. In 1955 she received a bachelor's degree in English from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee and a master's degree in art from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, in 1962. In 1973 she went to Dickinson, North Dakota, where she taught at Trinity High School until 1978. Sister Mary Lauren then spent two years as a student at the motherhouse in Munich, Germany. After her return to the United States, she was engaged in community service at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minnesota, and taught at Totino Grace High School, Fridley, Minnesota. She was then called to Rome where she spent 1981 to 1987 as a staff member at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Generalate. Upon her return Sister Mary Lauren spent a few months as the director of the boarder residents at St. Mary, New England, North Dakota, before returning to teach at Trinity High School, Dickinson. She spent the early 1990s back in Minnesota, teaching at Crucifixion, LaCrescent and engaged in community service at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato. In 1993

she went to St. Mary of the Pines, Chatawa,

Mississippi, where she served as director of the craft department.

She returned to Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato in 1996 to become the director of the craft department there. In 2002 she retired and is now serving in prayer and presence and shares in the Mother Bear Project at Our Lady of Good Counsel.