



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

2023 Jubilee

Sister Laura Jean Spaeth, SSND

First Profession - July 31, 1963 | Celebrating 60 Years



Sister Laura Jean Spaeth is originally from West Bend, Wisconsin, and in 1963, she professed her first vows in Mequon, Wisconsin. The first four years of her ministry were spent teaching in two Wisconsin schools: St. John Baptist in Cooks Valley and St. Leo in Milwaukee. In 1969, she received a bachelor's degree in sociology from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee. After receiving her bachelor's degree, Sister Laura Jean went to St. Francis Xavier in Superior, Wisconsin, where she taught and served as the school's principal until 1976. She then spent three years working for social justice as the School Sisters of Notre Dame's staff person and administrator at the Justice and Peace Intercongregational Center in Milwaukee. In 1980, she received a master's degree in spiritual studies from Regis College, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and a master's degree in theology with a concentration in Scripture from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota. After completing her studies, Sister Laura Jean served as the parish RENEW program director at St. Anne in Milwaukee for two years. She was called to Rome, to serve as a resource staff person for the School Sisters of Notre Dame General Council for three years. After returning to the United States, she was chosen to be the director of a new four-month renewal program for men and women religious at Wellsprings Renewal Center in Glens Falls, New York. She remained in New York for five years and then was elected to serve as the provincial leader for the School Sisters of Notre Dame former Milwaukee Province. She served in this leadership role for six years before serving on the General Council at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Generalate in Rome.

Sister Laura Jean served on the General Council for 10 years and then was a campus minister for three years with the Cardinal Newman Catholic Campus Ministry in Rolla, Missouri. From 2012 to 2015, she was engaged in spiritual direction and retreat ministry for the Diocese of Jefferson City, Jefferson City, Missouri. Most recently, Sister Laura Jean was a member of the provincial council for the School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific Province. She currently lives in Greenfield, Wisconsin.

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A memory I have to share...

Sixty years as a SSND stretched this shy rural girl into a global woman, enriched by numerous spiritual opportunities and multi-cultural experiences – a life described by the poet, Mary Oliver: “My one wild and precious life” (The Summer Day). Magnificat!

