

Sister Patricia Maxa, SSND - 50 Year Jubilee!



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Reflecting on God’s faithful presence and care in my life and many grace – filled moments, I am in awe of the blessings received for over 50 years.

My SSND journey began as I entered the first grade at St. Wenceslaus School. Following came a call to religious life, influenced by SSND teachers. A special 7th grade teacher was Sister Vaclava. Her joy, holiness, actions and words remain with me.

God has truly blessed me with many graces as I ministered in Catholic schools and religious education programs as a teacher, assistant principal and principal. Teaching almost every grade level in elementary school has enriched my life with meaning for the past 50 years.

Presently, I serve in a multifaceted school office ministry of an SSND co-sponsored middle school, Mother Seton Academy. The poverty in the neighborhood and in the lives of our students is a real awareness witnessed daily.

Special blessings were the students, their families and the parishioners where I have ministered mostly in the Maryland area, Annapolis and Baltimore. Gratitude abounds as I remember the many Sisters with whom I lived in community.

As an SSND, I was able to travel (which I love) far beyond my dreams. It is with deep gratitude

for having opportunities to attend several SSND educational conferences throughout the United States while visiting several former motherhouses.

An unforgettable adventure was participation in the 25th Jubilee trip to Rome while visiting special places and SSND’s in London, Prague and Bila Voda. The special time was meeting and connecting with the Czech Sisters (my heritage). My heart was truly touched. They related how their life and ministries were suppressed under communist rule. Their wit and love was strong even at 6 am as they chanted morning prayer followed by Mass on Sunday morning.

Another amazing opportunity was traveling to Japan for the international program in 2014. For three weeks the Japanese Sisters shared their customs, foods and sacred vocation stories. Visiting their convents and schools was delightful. Experiencing our internationality and unity is truly a blessing and a gift.

My prayer is one of gratitude and thanksgiving for my Catholic faith, my religious vocation, my family and my SSND community.