

## *Sister Mary Teresia Spodnik, SSND – 85 Year Jubilee!*



*"I think listening  
is something we need  
to do for each other."*

I was born on March 29, 1920. I grew up in a very happy and loving family. I went to St. John Nepomucene in Bridgeport, CT.

My aunt was an SSND and I loved to visit her. I would go to the convent and do some small chores and shopping. The Sisters that I knew were always kind and helpful.

I used to like to go to the chapel and listen to the Sisters pray. I felt that I wanted to do the same. They tried to make the children happy and to teach them. At this point I thought that I could do the same.

My mother was happy for me and my decision. My father really did not want me to go so far away.

When I was teaching, I remembered the Sisters and their kindness. I tried my best to be like them. I was encouraged by their patience and willingness to help me be a good teacher.

When I worked in Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton, CT, I was a Pastoral Minister. I felt that the Sisters appreciated all the help I tried to give them. It was important for me to spend time with them.

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## *Sister Mary Teresia Spodnik, SSND – Cont'd*

Something that touched me very much was meeting a gentleman by the name of Jim. He was in Norwalk Hospital. I heard him crying and yelling.

I found out that Jim did this often. I asked if I could visit him. I tried hard not to be too aggressive.

I found out that he was lonely. His wife had died, and his sons did not visit. We talked for a long time.

On another visit to the hospital, I found out that he left. One of his sons had come to take him home.

I remembered his last words to me: "Thank you for listening. You helped me realize how much I need my sons and I will try."

I was happy that I was able to give him some comfort.

I think that listening is important to do. It makes others feel that someone cares. I think listening is something we need to do for each other.

[Click here](#) to read Sr. Teresia's 80th Jubilee reflection written in 2019, which includes her journey in ministry.