

Tell Us a Story

FACILITATOR Directions

Materials needed:

Tell Us a Story sheets

Quiet music playing

The FACILITATOR

The Facilitator needs to familiarize herself with the history of the School Sisters of Notre Dame from her Unit. Read through the text and collect stories that highlight unusual features of your Unit. She may want to share one of the two stories in *Sturdy Roots* highlighting Mother Paschal or S. Charitas.

The FACILITATOR says: I have read some of our SSND history recently compiled by _____. (Name and recognize the work of your Unit's historian. If possible have a conversation with her or invite her to present some stories she found most interesting). I'd like to share a few stories and then invite you to do the same.

The FACILITATOR shares one or two stories. She distributes: TELL US A STORY sheets. She explains by saying: We'll take about 10-15 minutes to remember a story related to a sister you've known or an SSND you've read about. Choose one event and try to describe it briefly on your sheet.

When they have completed the questions the FACILITATOR continues: The FACILITATOR says: Find someone and share your story. We'll take about 5 minutes so allow equal time for sharing.

After sharing with a partner the FACILITATOR says: What did you learn about yourself from this process?

Are there any insights that you'd like to share?

The FACILITATOR concludes by saying:

As we conclude I want to acknowledge both the gifts and weaknesses of the School Sisters of Notre Dame who may have been our teachers, friends, family members or mentors. Please join me in a Litany of Acceptance.

For teachers whose lives were stressed from large classes and long hours, may we forgive them for any harsh words or insensitive statements that we carry in our hearts. (Response)

RESPONSE: All the works of God proceed slowly and in pain but then their roots are sturdier and their flowering the lovelier.

For those who educated us by their respectful challenge, calling us to go deeper and recognize our own worth. (Response)

As we remember School Sisters of Notre Dame may they know of our gratitude and acceptance of their strengths and limitations. (Response)

The FACILITATOR says: Please add your own petitions.

After petitions have been completed The FACILITATOR continues: I'd like to conclude with the Dismissal Prayer found in the Holy Rule of 1865. School Sisters of Notre Dame were expected to bless their students after the final class each day. Being sent home with a blessing was a powerful image to many students. Let us conclude by saying it together.

(This final blessing is printed on **Tell Us a Story** sheet).

Tell Us a Story Sheet

1. Consider a School Sister of Notre Dame who touched your life. What made it memorable for you? Can you describe briefly what happened?

2. What did you learn about yourself in this event?

3. As I remember this event today I realize that...

“All the works of God proceed slowly and in pain, but then their roots are sturdier and their flowering the lovelier.” Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, SSND

“My Dear Students,

I commend you to the Holy Spirit through the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and I entrust you forever to her blessed hands.
Amen”