

In Loving Memory

Sister Mary Antoine Mika, SSND



Birth
March 3, 1917

Baptism
March 11, 1917

Profession
August 21, 1936

Death
January 5, 2012

Burial
Sancta Maria in
Ripa Cemetery
St. Louis, Missouri

*Precious and blessed is
the death of the faithful
before God... for
they die in union with
their dear Jesus, in the
grace of God, in peace.*

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
Letter 11, September 10, 1831

On March 3, 1917, a little girl was born to Mary [Throener] and John Mika in Fort Madison, Iowa. She was baptized on March 11, 1917, at St. Mary's Church and given the name Evelyn Teresa. She was the sixth of seven children, having four sisters and two brothers.

When her sister, Rita, who was two years older than Evelyn, began school, Evelyn [at the age of 4] was permitted to go with her. At the age of 10, she was confirmed and began to think about becoming a religious. She graduated from St. Mary's Grade School where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Evelyn attended Catholic Central High School and in her junior year finally asked permission from her parents to enter religious life. She entered the candidature on August 30, 1933, at the age of 16. During her two years in the candidature, she completed her high school and one year of junior college. Evelyn was received into the novitiate on August 20, 1935, and given the name Mary Antoine. She professed first vows on August 21, 1936, and final vows on August 21, 1942.

She was awarded a bachelor's degree in art from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, Wis., in 1949; a master's degree in education from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., in 1961 and a master's degree in fine arts from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind., in 1966.

During the next 56 years, Sister Mary Antoine taught elementary and secondary students in schools in various states. She taught elementary students for 22 years at St. Anthony and St. Gerard, Baton Rouge, La.; St. Joseph, East St. Louis, Ill.; All Souls, Overland, Mo.; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Engelbert and Our Lady of Sorrows in St. Louis.

For 34 years, she taught art and American history to secondary students at Mount Carmel High School, Houston, Texas; St. Mary of the Pines, Chatawa, Miss.; Quincy Notre Dame, Quincy, Ill.; Mater Dei High School, Breese, Ill.; St. Francis de Sales High School and Rosary High School, St. Louis.

At the age of 75, she was missioned to Villa Gesu to assist with arts and crafts in the occupational therapy department. When the Villa closed in 1999, she came to the motherhouse and continued to do community service. Her health required a transfer to Veronica House in December 2002. With the need for further assistance, she was missioned to Anna House in August 2009. She was called home to God unexpectedly on January 5, 2012, at 11 p.m. at Anna House.

A wake/vigil was held at Anna House and Theresa Center on January 10, 2012. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with Rev. Robert Leibrecht, a former student, as presider. There are no immediate survivors. Relatives, friends and SSNDs attended the funeral services.

continued

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**School Sisters
of Notre Dame**
Central Pacific Province

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During World War II, Sister Mary Antoine was certified as a member of the United States Citizens Defense Corps in St. Louis and as an air raid warden. She donated to the Jefferson Barracks Museum Collection a war ration stamp book, several maps and a list of the men who served with her younger brother, John, in the Signal Corps during World War II. Her older brother, Franklin, also served in the Engineer Corps and assisted in the building of the Alaskan airport. Franklin received his discharge papers at Jefferson Barracks at the end of the war.

Sister Mary Antoine was a gifted artist and her students were frequently winners in various art shows. She loved all kinds of art, especially leather tooling. She treasured her family, was a woman of prayer and willingly shared her artistic gifts with other.

May she now rejoice in the fullness of eternal life with her God and her family members who have gone before her!

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND