



Birth
Feb. 11, 1930

Baptism
March 2, 1930

Profession
July 19, 1953

Death
Dec. 30, 2015

Burial
Our Lady of Good
Counsel Cemetery
Mankato, Minnesota

*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

In Loving Memory

Sister Arlene (M. Romaine) Hodapp, SSND

Sister Arlene Hodapp, 85, died peacefully at 2:50 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2015, in Notre Dame Healthcare, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minnesota. Around Thanksgiving, her health declined severely and just recently she was diagnosed with advanced cancer. Sisters and friends had been keeping vigil in the hours preceding Sister Arlene's death, and several were with her when she died.

Sister Arlene was born in Mankato on Feb. 11, 1930. The second daughter in the family, she was baptized Arlene Rose at SS. Peter & Paul Church a few weeks later. Arlene attended Holy Rosary School in North Mankato, where she was taught by School Sisters of Notre Dame. In 1944 she became a freshman at Good Counsel Academy.

Describing her call to SSND, Arlene wrote, "In the summer of 1948 after my high school graduation, I saw my sister, Dolores, Sister Mary Romana, take her second temporary vows. On this big day of hers, I started working as a long distance operator with the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company, and was employed there for two years. Finally, heeding the call to follow the Lamb of God, I entered the SSND candidature in 1950."

Arlene spent one year in the candidature taking college classes. In her second year as a candidate, she taught third and fourth grades at St. Peter School, Hokah, Minnesota. In the summer of 1952, she was received as a novice, and given the name Sister Mary Romaine, a form of her father's name. She later returned to her baptismal name.

Following profession of vows in 1953, she taught second grade at St. Francis de Sales School, St. Paul, for two years. In 1955, she moved to Northfield, Minnesota, where she taught first grade at St. Dominic School for four years. She wrote, "Besides teaching, I did most of the cooking. . . . I love teaching. I also love to be outside working with plants and anything that grows." During the summers, she attended classes at Viterbo College, La Crosse, Wisconsin, taking home economics classes.

In 1959, Sister Arlene was transferred to St. John School, Mankato, where she taught primary grades. This would be her final elementary school position, with the exception of one year each at St. Mary School, St. Cloud and SS. Peter & Paul, Mankato, in the 1990s. Beginning in 1961, she taught home economics and science classes at Trinity High School, Dickinson, North Dakota (1961-62); St. Michael High School, St. Michael, Minnesota (1962-65 and 1966-68); and Good Counsel Academy, Mankato (1968-76). During the 1965-66 school year, she completed her home economics degree at Viterbo.

In February 1976, Sister M. Vivian Skluzacek, who had founded the Institute for Reading Development based on Good Counsel Hill, died suddenly after a stroke. (The "creep and crawl" patterning methodology was promulgated by Glen Doman and Carl Delacato; Sister Vivian used their techniques as the basis for the Institute of Reading Development.) Sister Arlene assumed the

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Arlene Hodapp



directorship of the institute the following September. In a 1983 newspaper article, she explained how she came to this ministry: “I was asked by [SSND leadership] to do it. I’d never even been in the institute. I wasn’t sure at first, but then the more I found out about it, the more interested I became.” She attended the Dallas Academy of Human Development in Texas to prepare and became a certified sensorimotor developmentalist. The premise of the institute was that some individuals with learning difficulties can be aided by going back to the beginning of their neurological development. Sister Arlene maintained that reading difficulties can often be traced to perceptual problems – that the brain is not “wired” correctly. Through a series of patterning exercises, the brain can be “rewired.” In her 13 years as director, she evaluated and worked with persons of all ages, supervised, directed and helped train other developmentalists, and was a visiting evaluator for three neurological centers in Ohio. Sister Arlene also conducted a reading development program with kindergarten classes in the Mankato area.

In August 1989, the Institute for Reading Development closed, and Sister Arlene pursued other ministries. She served as religious education director at St. Albert Parish, Albertville, Minnesota, and at SS. Peter & Paul, Mankato. During her time at SS. Peter & Paul, she branched out into another ministry, that of foot reflexology. In a 2006 article she wrote: “Reflexology is a science which deals with the principle that there are reflexes in the feet relative to each and every organ and all parts of the body. Stimulating these reflexes properly can help many health problems in a natural way.” Sister Arlene took her first reflexology class in 1980 and, through advanced work in continuing years, became certified in foot reflexology. In 1996, this became her full-time ministry with an office in St. Joseph Hall at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato.

Being a descendent of the pioneer Catholics of Mankato – Philip Hodapp, her great grandfather, came to Mankato in 1854 and was instrumental in bringing School Sisters of Notre Dame to Mankato in 1865 – Sister Arlene was a link in the 150-year history of SSND in Mankato.

In a 2013 Jubilee reflection Sister Arlene shared this insight: “Life means to have something definite to do, a mission to fulfill.” In her ministry, Sister Arlene carried out her mission by helping students and clients to renew their strength and confidence.

The funeral Mass for Sister Arlene, with Father Andrew Olsem as president, was held Wednesday, Jan. 6, in Good Counsel Chapel, Mankato, followed by burial in the Good Counsel Cemetery. She is survived by her sister Marge (Bill) Shaw, nieces and nephews, and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was preceded in death by her parents, Roman and Mary Ann (Ziegler) Hodapp, her sister, Dolores Hodapp, SSND, and her brother James.

By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND

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