



**Birth**  
December 2, 1924

**Baptism**  
December 7, 1924

**Profession**  
July 22, 1945

**Death**  
December 10, 2014

**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 Dolores [M. Romana] Hodapp, SSND

Just eight days after celebrating her birthday, our beloved Sister Dolores Hodapp, 90, died on December 10, 2014, in Notre Dame Health Care, Good Counsel Hill, Mankato, Minnesota. Her sister, Arlene Hodapp, SSND, and several other sisters were with her when she died.

Sister Dolores was born on December 2, 1924. The Hodapps lived in North Mankato, where Holy Rosary Parish had just been established; because the church and school were not completed, Dolores was baptized on December 7 in the hospital. For the first four years of her life, she was an only child. When she was five, her sister Arlene was born, and Marge joined the family 11 months later.

Dolores attended kindergarten at SS. Peter & Paul School in Mankato because Holy Rosary did not offer kindergarten classes. She enrolled in first grade the next year at Holy Rosary School. The remark of her first grade teacher, "Someday I know you'll carry on my work teaching His little ones," stayed with her throughout her school days. Dolores experienced great joy on her first Communion day, April 23, 1933. She had been praying for a little brother and felt especially that day that Jesus could not refuse her request; her brother Jim was born the following January.

Following eighth grade graduation in 1938, she continued her education at Good Counsel Academy. She had wanted to be a teacher ever since first grade, but the thought of being a sister frightened her, even though she felt attracted to the religious life. During her junior year she confided her fears to one of her teachers, who helped her understand the joy of following a religious vocation. When Dolores discussed this with her parents, her mother refused to consent. As a senior, Dolores developed a strong devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, which helped her at this time. She also credited the interest and direction of Fr. Alton Scheid, the Good Counsel chaplain, as a source of strength as she tried to obtain parental permission to become a sister. Finally, two weeks before entrance day in August 1942, she did receive her parents' approval, and she became a candidate on August 28. As a second year candidate, she happily taught "little ones," fulfilling the prediction of her own first grade teacher.

Dolores was received into the novitiate in July 1944, and given the name Mary Romana, derived from her father's name. At the time of her reception, both parents truly shared her joy. Sister Dolores professed first vows in July 1945 and was assigned to teach fourth grade at St. Agnes, St. Paul, Minn. She then taught upper grades at several Twin Cities schools: Sacred Heart (1946-47); SS. Cyril & Methodius (1947-48); St. Francis de Sales (1948-49); St. Agnes (1949-52); and St. Matthew (1952-57). In 1957, she moved out of the metro area to SS. Peter & Paul, Blue Earth (1957-60); St. Mary, Worthington (1960-65) and Columbus High School, Waterloo, Iowa (1965-71). Her service in Waterloo was interrupted by a year of study at Viterbo College, in La Crosse, Wis. (1966-67). She had earlier earned a bachelor's degree from St. Catherine's College, St. Paul, Minn. (1954) and

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Dolores Hodapp*



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

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD  
THROUGH EDUCATION

a master's degree from Creighton University, Omaha, Neb. (1960), both in the field of English.

In 1971 Sister Dolores was elected to provincial leadership for the former Mankato Province. While serving two terms in provincial administration, she immersed herself in province activities and programs. She also attended the 1972, 1974 and 1977 SSND General Chapter sessions in Rome. She wrote, "I value my experience at three General Chapters as some of the most enriching and mind stretching of my life. The interchange of culture, hopes, visions and faith sharings, in spite of language barriers, was phenomenal."

Following her leadership term, Sister Dolores served as director of Ad Sum, a personal growth program in St. Cloud, Minn., for four years. In 1983 she returned to her first love, education. She was principal and teacher at Holy Spirit School, and then St. Mary's Cathedral School in St. Cloud until 1999. She commented, "Teaching is so open for creativity; there are so many ways to teach the same subject." A joy-filled teacher, she had a tremendous impact on her students. Sister Dolores also combined her love of teaching and love of English as she directed sisters in choral reading presentations for province liturgies in the summers.

After Sister Dolores enjoyed a sabbatical year, she became the facility director for the Good Counsel Education Center in 2000. In 2004 she began a new role of community service. An article at the time of her 60th jubilee in 2005 stated, "The sisters at the provincial house now enjoy having Sister Dolores in community as she relishes the semi-retired life. She spends her days visiting sisters in health care facilities." As her sight began to fail, she experienced the outreach of others. An avid reader, she so appreciated those who read to her. She fully participated in meetings and activities in Notre Dame Health Care for as long as she was able – and really loved a good celebration.

Having descended from 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 Dolores is a link in the 150-year history of SSND in Mankato.

The funeral Mass for Sister Dolores, with Father Eugene Stenzel as president, was held December 16, in Good Counsel Chapel, Mankato. Burial of her remains in our cemetery followed on December 20. She is survived by her sisters Arlene Hodapp, SSND, and 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, and her brother James.

*By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND*