



**Birth**  
June 26, 1928

**Baptism**  
July 8, 1928

**Profession**  
August 6, 1948

**Death**  
October 4, 2015

**Burial**  
Notre Dame of  
Elm Grove Cemetery  
Elm Grove, Wisconsin

*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 Eileen [Mary Allan] Curran, SSND

**B**orn in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 26, 1928, to Earl and Mathilda (Miller) Curran, she was baptized Eileen Margaret at Holy Cross Church in Milwaukee. She was the fourth of six children in the family. The great love her parents showed for the Mother of God made a deep impression on her early life. She remembers how her mother and father knelt down every night to recite the rosary.

Her early childhood was remarkable due to some brushes with death. When she was 10 months old, Eileen fell down the basement steps in her stroller but fortunately she came out of the experience with only a few minor bruises. After this near tragedy, her parents placed her under the protection of the Blessed Mother. At the age of five she had double pneumonia. In those days there were no miracle drugs. Her parents prayed for her healing. When she was six she was pinned under a trailer. Fortunately, her 5-year-old brother's calls for help saved her life. At the hospital, the doctor informed her parents that if she lived, she would probably be an invalid. Again her parents placed their confidence in Mary – daily praying the rosary and Memorare at her bedside. Eileen recovered completely and was able to enter first grade.

She attended Holy Cross School where she was taught by School Sisters of Notre Dame. Eileen learned to love, appreciate and admire her teachers. Upon her graduation from eighth grade, she asked her parents if she could join the congregation but they wanted her to wait. They promised to give their consent following a year of high school, if she still wanted to enter. After attending Pius XI High School for her freshman year, she entered the SSND candidature in August 1944. At reception, she received the religious name Mary Allan but later returned to her baptismal name. She professed her first vows on August 6, 1948. Sister Eileen received her bachelor's in education from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee in 1963. She earned her master's as a reading specialist from Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee in 1972.

Sister Eileen's ministry as an educator spanned 60 years. She taught primary level students for 42 years in Wisconsin at St. Boniface, Milwaukee; SS. Peter and Paul, Wisconsin Rapids; Our Lady of Lourdes, Rice Lake; Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Sun Prairie; and St. Frances Cabrini, West Bend. Preparing children for their first Communion was a special joy and privilege for her.

In 1990, Sister Eileen began a new ministry, serving for 11 years as director of religious education for St. Michael and Holy Trinity Parishes in Kewaskum, Wis. She often hosted SSND inter-group meetings and extended assemblies. The Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh, Wis. held a special place in her heart. For years she planned and cared for the beautiful flowers that graced the entrance to the center. Sister Eileen's energy and enthusiasm impressed many in the community. To each place she was sent, she brought beauty of her own, and love and caring.

*continued*

# *In Loving Memory*



*Sister Eileen Curran*



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The final phase of Sister Eileen's work was directing senior ministry for St. Michael and Holy Trinity Parishes from 2001 until her retirement in 2008 when she joined the Notre Dame of Elm Grove community. In April 2011, she moved to Our Lady of the Angels Convent in Greenfield, Wisconsin where she served through prayer and presence.

Sister Eileen died on October 4, 2015 at Our Lady of the Angels, Greenfield, Wisconsin. She was 87. Her visitation, wake service and Mass of Christian Burial were celebrated Thursday, October 8 in the Holy Family chapel at Notre Dame of Elm Grove. Love and joy were Eileen's gifts. May she now rest in the loving arms of God.

Sister Eileen is survived by her brothers Earl (Leona) Curran, Jr. and John Curran, Sr., her sister, Nancy (Charles) Lacke, many devoted nieces and nephews, cousins, dear friends and the SSND Community. Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Retirement Fund, c/o SSND Mission Advancement Office, 13105 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122-2291.

*This remembrance is compiled from SSND archival information  
and the eulogy presented by Sister Joan Emily Kaul, SSND.*



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

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD  
THROUGH EDUCATION