

In Loving Memory

Sister M. Nora Eggert, SSND



Birth
April 15, 1920

Baptism
April 17, 1920

Profession
July 22, 1940

Death
August 16, 2012

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

Sister M. Nora Eggert, 92, died Thursday, August 16, 2012, in Notre Dame Health Care Center, Our Lady of Good Counsel Campus, Mankato, Minnesota. In the past few weeks, she had become increasingly weaker, and her condition declined greatly the day before she died.

Sister Nora, the second youngest of 12 children, was born on the family farm near Silver Lake, Minnesota, on April 15, 1920. Two days later she was baptized Margaret at St. Adalbert Church in Silver Lake. When she was six, Margaret entered first grade at St. Adalbert School, with Sister M. Leocadia [Mary Margaret] Miller as her teacher. In a vocation display commentary, Sister Nora recalled, "I was very young in first grade, so Sister Leocadia picked me up and carried me around the room. I went home that day and said to my parents, 'I want to go to Mankato when I grow up.' When I graduated from 8th grade, I asked, 'Now can I go to Mankato?' My mother said, 'I thought you had forgotten all about that!' We drove to Good Counsel that same week. I took my entrance exams and that was that." Her parents joyfully approved and in September 1934, Margaret became an aspirant at Good Counsel Academy.

Three years later, Margaret entered the candidature, and completed her senior year as an SSND candidate. As a second year candidate, she taught grades one and two at St. Albert School in Albertville. In 1939, she was received into the novitiate and given the name Sister M. Nora.

Following profession in 1940, it was decided that Sister Nora would become a home service sister. She remained in the motherhouse and assisted in the sisters' refectory. In 1941, she was missioned to St. Joseph, Cresco, Iowa, where she stayed two years.

In June 1941, her older sister Anne, our future Sister M. Rosanne, entered the candidature, a source of great joy for Sister Nora. Sister Nora renewed her vows on the same day that Sister Rosanne pronounced first vows in 1943.

After another year of community service at Good Counsel, Sister Nora was transferred to St. Francis, Buffalo, for a two-year stay. In 1945, she was asked to substitute for a few months at St. Philip, Minneapolis, and teach grades one and two, an experience that she enjoyed tremendously. In August 1946, she traveled to Chewelah, Washington, where she was again a home service sister. Sister Nora returned to Good Counsel in 1950, and for five years, cooked for the patients in Fourier Hall (now Marian Hall).

Sister Nora described the next stage of her ministry this way, "One day in 1955, Mother Bernardia asked me if I would go to Canby to teach for about a month. Of course, I said 'Yes,' and I have been teaching ever since. The Lord's ways are not our ways but I certainly was happy to be able to teach little ones. This was always my one great desire, to be a teacher, but I felt God's blessing wherever I worked." The "one month" at Canby stretched to five years. During this time, Sister Nora began taking summer college courses and earned a BA from Mount Mary College in 1970.

continued

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She taught primary and intermediate grades at All Saints, Madison Lake (1960-61); St. Matthew, St. Paul (1961-65); St. Joseph, Clements (1965-69) and Silver Lake Catholic School in her hometown (1969-76). While teaching at Silver Lake, she became involved in the Right to Read Program for elementary children and its partner for adults, the Laubach Training Program. She coordinated the reading program at Silver Lake and, because of its excellence, she was called on to conduct Right to Read Workshops throughout the state. In 1975, she received a certificate of commendation from Governor Wendell Anderson at a luncheon held in the Governor's mansion.

Sister Nora moved to SS. Peter & Paul, Loretto, for the next three years (1976-79) and then to SS. Peter & Paul, Mankato, for two years. In 1981, she returned to Loretto for another two years. After a one-year sabbatical of renewal and community service, she again returned to Loretto, where she served as a tutor and librarian. In all, Sister Nora spent 13 years in Loretto. In 1990, she celebrated her Golden Jubilee there, and the parish gift to her was a trip to Germany. She wrote, "What a gift it was! Some of the places we visited were Heidelberg, Nuremburg, Regensburg, and Oberammergau where we had the privilege to see the Passion Play. I couldn't find words adequate to express my appreciation to the Loretto people."

In 1992, Sister Nora became a member of the staff at St. Mary's Home, Winsted. Her experience with the elderly in Winsted led her to Good Counsel in 1995, where she ministered to the sisters in St. Joseph Hall and performed other community services until retiring full time in 2007.

Sister Nora had many interests, and commented, "Crocheting, reading, playing cards, especially bridge and cribbage, and collecting jokes are my main hobbies. The Lord has gifted me with a good sense of humor and I am able to bring joy and laughter to many people." She faithfully found time for sewing and needlework, annual contributions to the SSND Craft Fair. She also wrote, "Looking back at my years in the Community of Notre Dame, with deep gratitude and love, I thank the dear Lord for choosing me as His follower and I ask Him daily for the graces I need to be faithful to His call all the days of my life."

The funeral Mass for Sister Nora was held August 21 in Good Counsel Chapel. She is survived by nieces and nephews and their families, and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Catherine (Kacmarek) Eggert, her sisters, Sister Rosanne Eggert, SSND, Bernice Eggert, Helen Prohott, Mary Eggert, Elizabeth Matousek and Emily Scepurek, and her brothers, Aloysius, Joseph, Leo, Adalbert and Peter.

By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND