



**Birth**  
March 7, 1927

**Baptism**  
March 21, 1927

**First Profession**  
July 15, 1947

**Date of Death**  
June 24, 2013

**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 Pauline Fritz, SSND

Sister Pauline Fritz, 86, died Monday, June 24, 2013, in Notre Dame Health Care Center, Our Lady of Good Counsel Campus, Mankato, Minnesota.

Sister Pauline's autobiography begins, "When the Canadian snows were drifting high and March winds were glazing the countryside, the second of eight children arrived in the happy Catholic farm home of Ed and Eleanore Fritz. It was March 7, 1927. Two weeks later Dad hitched a sturdy pair of horses to the sled and brought the parish priest to our home for my Baptism. I was named Elizabeth Josephine after my two grandmothers." Three months later, the Fritz family – her parents, her older sister Marion, and Elizabeth (Betty) – moved from the farm near Yorkton, Saskatchewan, to a farm near Lafayette, Minnesota. Three sons were born there, and three daughters were born after the family moved to North Mankato.

Betty attended country school for five years and religious education classes when possible at Holy Trinity in New Ulm, a considerable distance from her home. Sister Pauline wrote later, "The little contact I had with the Sisters [of Christian Charity] at Holy Trinity Church, however, aroused a desire in me to be a sister someday." Their mother prayed that her children might someday attend a Catholic school and that one or more of her children would have a vocation to the religious life. Her prayers were answered when the family moved close to North Mankato, where the children could attend Holy Rosary School. Betty started fifth grade in October 1936 "and was thrilled to have real sisters all day. . . . The School Sisters of Notre Dame became my great love."

After graduating from eighth grade in 1940, Betty followed Marion to the aspiranture at Good Counsel. Betty entered the candidature in August 1944, and eagerly looked forward to teaching. The following year, she taught second grade and then fourth grade at St. Agnes in St. Paul.

At her reception into the novitiate in 1946, she was given the name Mary Pauline. Following profession of vows in 1947, she taught primary grades at St. Francis de Sales in St. Paul until 1949 when she was sent to St. Mary's School in Marystown for two years. Sister Pauline spent the 1951-1952 school year at SS. Peter & Paul in Mantador, North Dakota. Her next mission was St. Felix in Wabasha. After eight years at St. Felix, she returned to St. Francis de Sales for two more years. In 1963, she moved to St. John the Baptist in Savage as principal and upper grade teacher. During her teaching years, she earned a B.A. in education from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, and an M.A. in developmental reading and remediation from the College of St. Thomas. She continued her education with a variety of courses from several other colleges.

In 1967, Sister Pauline began many years of ministry in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. She joined the staff of the archdiocesan office of education as director of elementary school administration and personnel, a position she held for 10 years. During her years in the archdiocesan office,

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Pauline Fritz*



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she also served as director of government programs for elementary schools, was certified as a teacher perceiver and administrative perceiver specialist, was a member of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, and worked with parish boards of education. In 1976, she was asked to develop a program for the formation of parish councils. Summarizing her efforts, she commented, “With the help of a team of excellent resource people, the Parish Council Assistance Center came into being.”

Sister Pauline resigned from the education office in 1977 and became principal of St. Matthew School in St. Paul because she “was eager to work more directly with families and children.” In addition to being principal, she continued as director of the Parish Council Assistance Center until 1982. Having witnessed the effect of family breakdown on education she participated in a pastoral studies program at St. Thomas in 1983 and was certified in Gestalt Theory and Practice in 1984. Concurrent with her studies, she served as a pastoral minister at St. Rita Parish in Cottage Grove. For Sister Pauline, pastoral ministry was a journey with others, a journey she herself experienced after she was diagnosed with cancer, which led to heart problems from the chemotherapy. Her experience with illness increased her compassion for those who suffered from illness. She remained at St. Rita until 1997, the year of her golden jubilee.

In 1997, the province opened Notre Dame Center, a hospitality house for sisters in St. Paul and Sister Pauline became a staff member. She also worked in the office at St. Mary’s Home. Two years later, she joined the formation community at St. Matthew convent and continued her work at St. Mary’s. During this time she published *Peace Through Planning*, a resource for end-of-life decisions that focused especially on funeral planning. Sister Pauline came to Good Counsel in 2002 and was a member of the pastoral care staff, sharing her talents and skills with her own sisters. She concluded her autobiography with the words, “I have come full circle. I dearly loved every minute of religious life and ministry. I would do it all again.”

Sister Pauline’s funeral Mass, with Father Eugene Stenzel as presider and Father Thomas Fitzgerald as concelebrant, was held Monday, July 1, in Good Counsel Chapel. She is survived by her sisters, Sister Marion Fritz, SSND, Ivona Wichmann, Rosemary (Marlin) Reiners, and Lorraine (David) Kaiser, and brothers Marvin (Jan) and Bob, a sister-in-law, Helen, nieces and nephews, and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Eleanore (Diekmann) Fritz, and a brother, Loren.

*By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND*