



In Loving Memory

Sister Margaret Mary [Mary Luke] Gorman, SSND

Sister Margaret Mary [Mary Luke] Gorman, 88, died September 4, 2014, in Notre Dame Health Care, Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, Minn. Sister Margaret Mary had participated in community prayer through Wednesday, but was growing weaker and beginning to tell visitors that she felt she was dying.

Sister Margaret Mary was born September 17, 1925, on a farm in Pleasant Prairie Township in Martin County, Minn. Two days later, she was baptized at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Gukeen, Minn. Because her mother had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart, she chose the name Margaret Mary for her newborn daughter. Two more children were born to the family, Edward in 1927, and Elizabeth in 1928.

In 1930, Margaret Mary began first grade at Blue Earth Public School, which she attended for three years. When Elizabeth was ready for first grade, the Gorman children transferred to a one-room school where one teacher taught all eight grades. Margaret Mary thrived there and commented, "I graduated from that school five years later with a Palmer Penmanship certificate and the highest test scores in Faribault County in English, history and geography." Her father and grandmother saw the need for a Catholic education so in the fall of 1939, Margaret Mary became a freshman boarder at Good Counsel Academy in Mankato. It was here that she realized a call to religious life and she entered the SSND candidature in August 1943.

Following one year of study, Margaret Mary taught third grade at SS. Peter & Paul School, Mankato. She was received into the novitiate in 1945, and given the name Sister Mary Luke (she later returned to her baptismal name). She professed first vows on July 21, 1946. Sister Mary Luke spent the next year as a student at Diocesan Teachers' College in St. Paul, Minn., and took additional courses at St. Catherine and the Mankato Campus of Mount Mary College. She then began a 34-year teaching ministry in Catholic elementary and secondary schools. Her first assignment was Holy Childhood in St. Paul, a new mission where the school building was not ready. Sister Mary Luke's class met for a half day in the parish dining hall on the State Fair Grounds. Shortly after the school year began, she was transferred to St. Agnes in St. Paul, Minn.

In Minnesota, other schools where Sister Margaret Mary served were St. Anne, Wabasso; St. Francis, Buffalo; St. Stanislaus, Winona; St. Michael, Morgan; St. Mary, Bellchester; St. Felix, Wabasha; St. Peter, Canby; and Good Counsel Academy, Mankato. She also taught in Colton, Wash., at Notre Dame Academy and Guardian Angel; in North Dakota at St. Mary, New England; St. Gertrude, Raleigh; and Trinity, Dickinson; and in Iowa at Don Bosco, Gilbertville. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from the College of St. Catherine, Minneapolis in 1951, and a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa in 1969. In 1976, she became certified to teach English as a foreign language from the English Language Institute of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Birth
September 17, 1925

Baptism
September 19, 1925

First Profession
July 21, 1946

Death
September 4, 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

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister Margaret Mary
Gorman*



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Central Pacific Province

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
THROUGH EDUCATION

While teaching at Good Counsel Academy, she focused on teaching English to girls from foreign countries and, after the Academy closed in 1980, continued this ministry at the Good Counsel Learning Center. Sister Margaret Mary described her further involvement in this special application of teaching English: “In 1987, my classmates and I were invited to participate in the Rome Renewal Program. In one of the presentations we attended, we were encouraged to do all we could to help immigrant and refugee women to learn English. Since I was already helping foreign students in the study of English, this message found a place in my heart. On returning home, I contacted the Lincoln Community Center in Mankato and began helping international students to learn English. This experience enriched my life by enabling me eventually to assist students from over 20 different countries from five continents in their efforts to learn English. Most satisfying to me were the classes at Good Counsel in which I tutored sisters from Japan, Poland and India.” Since she wrote the above, she also worked with sisters from Germany and Brazil to help prepare them for service in the international SSND community. As her health declined, she reduced the number of students, but still taught international students from Loyola High School. She formally retired in 2013, with a special celebration hosted by the Learning Center staff but “un-retired” to teach one last student, Sister Adelaide Gambin, from Brazil.

Sister Margaret Mary loved the English language and often expressed herself in poetry. She also prepared a short obituary for herself. In it she wrote, “Sister Margaret Mary loved her family, her students, and her Sisters in community. She enjoyed reading, writing, and the beauty of nature.” Visits from faithful family members and friends attest to her love for family and friends.

The conclusion of Sister Margaret Mary’s autobiography states: “I am grateful to God for my vocation to the religious life and for the support I have received from my family, community, friends and students. There have been disappointments and sorrows over the years, but graces and consolations have been more abundant. Now I wait in joyful expectation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” May she now fully behold the joy that comes only from being in the presence of God!

The funeral Mass for Sister Margaret Mary, with Father Andrew Olsem as president, was celebrated Tuesday, September 9, in Good Counsel Chapel. A vigil service was held the evening before. She is survived by her brother Edward and his wife Rosemary, brother-in-law James Furllette, nieces Christine Boguchi and Catherine Peterson, two godchildren, many cousins, and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Mary (McGoff) Gorman, her brother John (in infancy) and her sister Elizabeth Furllette.

By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND