



In Loving Memory

Sister Mary Daniel Murphy, SSND

On January 25, 1910, twins were born to Mary [Spears] and Daniel Murphy in Chamberlain, S.D. Mary Ellen and Elmer were the first of five children in the Murphy household. A younger brother and two younger sisters would bring much joy to the Irish family. When Mary Ellen was three years old, the family moved to Nebraska. The first six years of elementary school were spent in various public schools in the states of Washington, Oregon, California and Arizona. Mr. Murphy was employed by the Santa Fe Railroad which resulted in these moves.

Birth
January 25, 1910

Baptism
April 23, 1922

Profession
July 22, 1930

Death
March 12, 2014

Sister Mary Daniel
donated her body to
St. Louis University
School of Medicine

On April 23, 1922, Mary Ellen, her twin and her mother were baptized at Sacred Heart Church, Prescott, Ariz. Her mother's health necessitated another move and the family moved to Morrilton, Ark. Mary Ellen completed her elementary education at Sacred Heart School in Morrilton where she first met the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She attended Sacred Heart High School for two years. Inspired by the sisters, Mary Ellen desired to become one of them. Her parents consented to her entrance into the candidature on September 2, 1926, at the age of 16. During her second year of candidature, she taught second grade at St. Engelbert School, St. Louis. She was received into the novitiate on August 16, 1928 and given the name, Mary Daniel, in honor of her father. Profession of first vows was July 22, 1930, and profession of final vows was July 13, 1936.

Sister Mary Daniel's life's ministry was with young children. She taught primary grades for 48 years at St. Engelbert, St. Elizabeth Day Nursery, St. Bernadette, Our Lady of Loretto and St. Aloysius Gonzaga in St. Louis; St. Joseph, Westphalia, Mo.; St. Joseph, Farmington, Mo.; St. Peter, St. Charles, Mo.; Sacred Heart, DuQuoin, Ill.; Santa Isabel, Los Angeles, Calif. She then became a resource person and volunteer primary teacher for an additional 22 years at St. Engelbert, St. Louis; St. Rita, San Diego, Calif. and St. Marianne, Pico Rivera, Calif.

In 2003, she retired at the motherhouse in St. Louis but continued to keep herself active. At the age of 95, she was missioned to Veronica House in 2005. In January 2014 [after her 104th birthday], she was transferred to Anna House. She died peacefully at Anna House on March 12, 2014, at 6:50 p.m. as sisters kept vigil and prayed with her. She donated her body to St. Louis University School of Medicine.

A wake service was held at Anna House on March 20. The memorial Mass was celebrated at Theresa Center on March 22, 2014, with Rev. Dennis Meyer, Miss. as presider. Her great nephew, Tommy Pratt, his wife, Mitzi, and daughter, Holly, came from Conway, Ark. to attend the memorial service with the SSNDs. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Elmer and Thomas and her sisters, Louise Murphy and Margaret Ulmann.

Short of 16 credits, Sister Mary Daniel was unable to complete her college courses and receive a college degree due to poor health and frequent bouts of pneumonia. However, with her will to live and the desire to serve others, she was blessed with a long life.

*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

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

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
THROUGH EDUCATION

Sister “Danny” was loved by the children and their childlike qualities were manifested in her. She was an excellent primary educator and touched hundreds of young lives. This was evidenced by the 22 former pupils for DuQuoin, Ill. who came together to pray and remember her when they learned of her death. She was a very creative person and made learning games, manipulatives and numerous materials for a variety of activities for primary students.

Sister Mary Daniel was an avid walker and walked daily or used the tread mill even when her lungs were so compromised. She loved nature and enjoyed the view from her room if she could not get outside. Her Irish humor and wit was matched by her straight forward responses.

She was a passionate fan of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team which was the theme for the decorations for her 100th birthday party. She would often stay up late to hear the end of a game or take her lunch to her room to enjoy an early afternoon game.

As Sister Mary Daniel enters eternal life, may she experience the promise of Jesus, “Whoever receives one child in my name receives me.” [Matthew 18:5].

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND