Sister Miriam was born and baptized in St. Paul, Minnesota. She made her first profession in Mankato, Minnesota, in 1945. Her decades of devoted ministry were as a teacher and art therapist across Minnesota and the Midwest. Sister Miriam’s initial grade school teaching assignments in St. Paul, Minnesota, included Holy Childhood, St. Francis de Sales, St. Agnes and St. Dominic in Northfield. Moving to the Diocese of Winona, Minnesota, from 1954 to 1962, she taught high school at Good Counsel Academy in Mankato, St. Anthony in Lismore, and Loyola High School in Mankato. Sister Miriam served for five years at Trinity High School in Dickinson, North Dakota, and then returned to Good Counsel and Loyola. She worked at various schools and concluded her classroom teaching at Notre Dame in Cresco, Iowa, from 1974 to 1976. Her second passion as an art therapist took her to numerous locations over the next 30 years. She served in special education schools, a health care center for disabled individuals, a university, an orphanage, a children’s center she founded and more. Those assignments included Laura Baker School, Northfield, Minnesota; St. Mary’s Special School, St. Louis; Trevilla of Robbinsdale, Minnesota; Hamline University, Minnesota; St. Vincent’s Residential School, Freeport, Illinois; Misericordia – Heart of Mary, Chicago; Read Mental Health Center, Chicago; St. Thomas More, St. Louis; St. Vincent Orphanage, Philadelphia; and St. Matthew grade school, St. Paul. In 1994, Sister Miriam founded Expressive Arts for Children in St. Paul, for which she served as executive director through the end of 1990s. During the early 2000s, she continued to minister as a freelance artist, volunteer and art therapist for SSND residing at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato. Since 2010, Sister Miriam has continued serving in prayerful presence there. She holds a bachelor’s degree in English from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul. In 1955, 1968, and 1978, she earned masters’ degrees in education, biology, and art therapy from the University of St. Thomas, St. Mary’s College and College of St. Benedict, all located in Minnesota.

A memory I have to share...
I loved starting art therapy in a hospital and in schools. I saw people find meaning and a means of self-expression through this medium. I am grateful to the community for allowing me to study this and get it started.

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