



Birth
October 13, 1932

Baptism
October 16, 1932

Profession
July 17, 1953

Death
February 20, 2023

Burial
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Cemetery

*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 M. Agnes Claire Krogman

Sister M. Agnes Claire Krogman, SSND, 90, died peacefully on February 20, 2023, at Benedictine Living Community in Shakopee, Minnesota. Sisters had been keeping vigil with her in the days before her death.

Sister Agnes Claire was born October 13, 1932, on a farm near Adrian, Minnesota. She was baptized Valery Anne three days later at St. Anthony Church, Lismore, Minnesota. In her autobiography, she described her early years, “Childhood was spent happily helping my mother and asking my patient father innumerable questions. My early growth was accompanied by loving parents and grandparents, caring uncles, aunts and numerous cousins. For seven years, I was taught by School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) at St. Anthony School, Lismore, Minnesota. Sister Antonia Thul, SSND prepared us during our third grade for First Holy Communion, telling us Jesus might have a special message for us that day. I waited all day but didn’t hear anything. However, my subconscious must have.”

Her autobiography continued, “In May of my seventh-grade year, I was confirmed. I chose St. Cecelia for my patron for obvious reasons. I needed a musician’s patronage. My mother had taught me the fundamentals of piano and then chose to have the sisters further my piano education. I taught myself how to play the piccolo. Learning the flute took place in high school.”

In June 1945, following Valery’s completion of seventh grade, her father responded to a job opening at Our Lady of Good Counsel Hill in Mankato, Minnesota. The Krogman family moved to Mankato that summer and Valery attended SS. Peter & Paul School, Mankato, for eighth grade. She then enrolled at Good Counsel Academy, Mankato, and enjoyed her high school years there, especially her participation in music and sports. In April of her senior year, the Krogman family moved into the apartment above the laundry on Our Lady of Good Counsel Hill. After graduation in 1950, she struggled with the idea of becoming a sister. She finally surrendered to the “still small voice” inviting her to enter the convent. Her parents fully supported her – her mother had wanted to be a sister but was told that her health would be an obstacle, and her father had considered entering the seminary, but was needed at home to help run the family farm. Sister Agnes Claire summed it up, “Needless to say, mother and dad had prayed silently, as had many sisters on the Hill, for my acceptance of God’s call. It seemed that I was the only one who was surprised.” And so, on September 4, 1950, Valery walked across the parking lot to enter the SSND candidature.

As a first-year candidate, Valery learned the fundamentals of religious life and took college classes to prepare for teaching. She was also able to take organ lessons. In her second year, she was assigned to St. Anthony in Lismore “to teach third and fourth grades, give piano lessons, accompany the high school choir, and play the organ for Masses.” She was received into the novitiate in July 1952 and given the name Sister M. Agnes Claire. Following profession of first vows in 1953, she began a 40-year ministry of teaching and administration. In

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister M. Agnes Claire
Krogman*



most places she was responsible for some aspect of music in the school and/or parish. She taught at All Saints, Madison Lake; St. Mary, Bellchester; SS. Cyril and Methodius, Minneapolis; St. Matthias, Wanda; and St. Francis, Buffalo – all in Minnesota. She served as teacher and administrator at St. Donatus, St. Donatus, Iowa; Our Lady of Victory, Lucan, Minnesota; St. Isidore, Litomysl, Minnesota; St. Anthony, Lismore, Minnesota; and St. Peter, Hokah, Minnesota. She completed her teaching ministry at SS. Peter & Paul, Mankato, Minnesota; St. Mary, Caledonia, and All Saints, Madison Lake. She earned a bachelor's degree from St. Catherine's College (now University), St. Paul, and a master's degree from Mankato State College (now University), Mankato, Minnesota.

In October 1992, Sister Agnes Claire moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, and became the coordinator for the Meals on Wheels program sponsored by St. Mary's Home. At that time, she remarked, "Part of the School Sisters of Notre Dame charism is to care for the poor. I'm really getting into that now. We go where there is a need, especially among the poor." She worked with the volunteer drivers and with the 23 area sponsoring churches and helped promote an awareness of the program. Shortly after beginning this work, she was able to bring her mother, now a widow, to St. Mary's Home as a resident and treasured the time she could spend with her until her death in 1994.

Southeastern Minnesota was Sister Agnes Claire's final area of ministry from 1995 through 2012. She lived first with the SSNDs in Caledonia while ministering in the parishes of Brownsville and Hokah, and then eventually moved to the parish house at St. Patrick's, Brownsville. She was invited to Brownsville to play the organ and direct the choir, as well as help with parish office work, which she also did at St. Peter, Hokah. Having previously served at both Caledonia and Hokah, she commented, "It's especially rewarding to come back to this area. This is like a second home to me. People are very supportive and welcoming."

Sister Agnes Claire retired to Our Lady of Good Counsel Hill in January 2013. She assisted with liturgical musical accompaniment both in the main chapel and in the Notre Dame Hall chapel, the latter right up to the time that she moved to Benedictine Living Center, Shakopee in October 2022. Because of her association with the Hill and her interest in history, she had many stories of Good Counsel.

Sister Agnes Claire's classmates developed the theme for her funeral liturgy: Praise the symphony of all God's creation, a "symphony" with four movements: nature, persons, music, food – all things that Sister Agnes Claire loved. She viewed her life as part of God's design.

The funeral mass for Sister Agnes Claire was held Thursday, March 2, in the Windermere Chapel, Shakopee, with Fathers Jim Berning and David Krogman, her cousins, as co-presiders. Visitation and sharing of memories preceded the liturgy. Burial in the Our Lady of Good Counsel cemetery in Mankato, followed. Sister Agnes Claire is survived by cousins and their families and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND associates. She was preceded in death by her parents, Alphonse and Agnes (Hensen) Krogman; and a brother, Mardon, who died shortly after birth.

By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND

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