

# *In Loving Memory*

## Sister Beverly Ann (Mary Roy) Fries



Birth  
August 14, 1931

Baptism  
August 23, 1931

Profession  
July 17, 1952

Death  
December 19, 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

Sister Beverly Ann Fries, 92, died at Benedictine Living Community, Shakopee, Minnesota, Tuesday, December 19, 2023. She was a lifelong educator, recognized for her commitment to education.

On August 14, 1931, a baby girl, Beverly Ann, was born to the John and Anna Fries family in Eitel Hospital, Minneapolis. Nine days later, she was baptized in the family's home parish of SS. Peter & Paul in Loretto, west of Minneapolis. Since LeRoy, the firstborn of the family had died in infancy, Beverly was considered the oldest and was joined three years later by twin sisters, Lavern and Laurell. Beverly started first grade at SS. Peter & Paul in 1937, and thoroughly enjoyed school. In the evenings, she tried to teach her little sisters what she had learned. At the time of her First Holy Communion, she felt the call to become a sister, crediting this decision to the instruction given by her teachers who were School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND).

In 1944, the Fries family moved to a nearby town, Maple Plain, because her father had suffered a stroke and was unable to continue working on the family farm. Her mother then supported the family. Beverly completed eighth grade at SS. Peter & Paul in 1945, and continued her education in the Good Counsel Academy aspiranture in Mankato. After graduating in 1949, she entered the SSND Candidature in August. Following a year of college classes, she taught third and fourth grades at St. Mary School, New Trier. Because she had taken several years of piano lessons, she was also responsible for music in the school and parish.

Beverly was received into the novitiate in 1951, and given the name Sister Mary Roy. She later returned to her baptismal name. Following profession of first vows in July 1952, she taught grades one and two at St. Albert School in Albertville, Minnesota. In 1954, she was sent to St. Leo Catechetical School in Pipestone, where she taught religion to a variety of age groups for one year. She then returned to classroom teaching at Guardian Angels in Colton, Washington, where she taught grades three and four from 1955 until 1958, when she was transferred to St. Joseph School in Spokane. In 1962, she returned to the Midwest and taught one year at St. Bartholomew School, Wayzata, Minnesota, two years at St. Mary, New Trier, and one year at St. Peter School in New Haven, Iowa. She earned her B.A. from Holy Names College in Spokane, Washington, in 1960 and an M.A. in education and counseling from Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, in 1971.

In 1966, Sister Beverly began a seven-year teaching ministry in Shakopee, Minnesota, first at St. Mark and then, after the school was consolidated with two other area schools, at Shakopee Area Catholic School. Sister Beverly's final classroom teaching experience was a long one – from 1973 through 2003 at Northeast Regional Catholic School, later renamed St. John Paul II Catholic School, in Minneapolis. Her focus was upper grade math, but she contributed to the school community in several ways. In her words, "I coordinated the weekly Mass schedule, organized prayer and reconciliation services, and visited local churches and synagogues to make students aware of the many different rites

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Beverly Ann  
(Mary Roy) Fries*



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

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through education

available in our area, which enhances their spirituality.” This was in addition to adapting the math curriculum to meet individual needs and using computers “to create an exciting learning environment.” A 1994 Catholic Spirit article entitled, “Sister Beverly Fries teaches more than math,” contained quotations from current and former students describing how “she was there for you no matter what.” Sister Beverly’s commitment to education – and to students – earned her two exceptional awards. In 1994, she received the St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocesan Outstanding Catholic School Teacher Award, which included \$2,000 that was used in part to establish a computer lab at her school. In 1998, Sister Beverly was one of 12 United States recipients of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Distinguished Teacher Award.

Sister Beverly retired from full-time teaching in 2003, but remained in Northeast Minneapolis and lived at Holy Cross Convent. Looking for an activity during her retirement, she explored the Foster Grandparent Program sponsored by Lutheran Social Services. An opportunity developed at Menlo Park Alternative School, located two blocks from the convent. The school welcomed high school students who had difficulty in traditional high schools. Sister Beverly embraced the new challenge and commented, “I love doing this! It’s a great feeling to know that you are helping someone learn – and helping them pass their graduation tests.” Her work with students was greatly appreciated and the volunteer coordinator remarked, “The beauty of having someone like Sister Beverly here is that she has extensive knowledge and can relate, one-on-one.” In 2014, Lutheran Social Services honored her for her work in the program.

When Holy Cross Convent closed in 2017, Sister Beverly moved to Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, where she spent a few hours each day working with students at Loyola Catholic School until the onset of COVID-19 in 2020. She stayed current with technology and enjoyed crocheting and embroidering in her free time.

Always close to her family, who sometimes called her “Grandma Bev,” she looked forward to visits with her sisters and their families and remained an important part of their lives. In September 2022, she moved with other School Sisters of Notre Dame to the Benedictine Living Community in Shakopee.

Sister Beverly knew from an early age that God was calling her to a life of special service. May she now enjoy the rewards of this life in everlasting union with the God she served so well.

The Funeral Mass for Sister Beverly was held January 15, 2024, in the Windermere Chapel, Shakopee, with Father Spencer Howe as presider. Visitation and Sharing of Memories preceded the Liturgy. Burial in the Our Lady of Good Counsel cemetery in Mankato followed. She is survived by her sisters, Lavern Rhode and Laurell Ostrow; nieces and nephews; her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame; and SSND associates. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Anna (Schumacher) Fries; and a brother, LeRoy, who died in infancy.

*By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND*