



## *In Loving Memory*

### Sister Marjorie (Mary Benjamin) Myers

Sister Marjorie (Mary Benjamin) Myers, SSND, 90, died Sunday, June 9, 2019, at Notre Dame Health Care, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minnesota. The fourth child of six, she was born March 13, 1929, in Lisle, Illinois. Before her second grade year, the family moved to Minneapolis, where Marjorie attended St. Thomas School through eighth grade. Her teachers were Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ). Marjorie continued her education with the CSJs during her high school years at St. Margaret's Academy in Minneapolis, graduating in 1947.

Birth  
March 13, 1929

Baptism  
March 31, 1929

Profession  
July 15, 1951

Death  
June 9, 2019

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

Describing her call to become a sister, Sister Marjorie wrote, "Desiring to be a lay teacher in a Catholic school, I then went to the St. Paul Diocesan Teachers' College. The second day, we had a science class from Sister M. Eileen [Lorang], SSND. After class I asked my companions, 'What kind of a sister was that?' We soon found out, and were very much attracted to learning more about these sisters. During Christmas vacation, three of us visited Good Counsel and spent a day with the candidates. Two days later, I had the first inkling of a 'call' to religious life. It had held no attraction before, but now the desire to become a religious grew more and more." In February 1948, she made the decision to enter the candidature at Our Lady of Good Counsel in August. She found her first year as a candidate to be "a wonderful, profitable year." As a second-year candidate, she did her practice teaching at SS. Peter & Paul School, Mankato. At reception in July 1950, she was given the name Sister Mary Benjamin, chosen for her older brother who died during World War II in November 1943. She later returned to her baptismal name.

Following profession of first vows in July 1951, Sister Marjorie began her ministry of teaching elementary, junior and senior high school students during the school year and student sisters during summer school classes. Her first mission was St. Francis, Buffalo, Minnesota, where she taught grades three and four. She was also responsible for the children's and young ladies' choirs and music pupils. Her teaching ministry, often accompanied by church music, continued at Sacred Heart, Heron Lake, Minnesota; St. Mark, Shakopee, Minnesota; St. Anthony, Lismore, Minnesota; SS. Cyril and Methodius, Minneapolis; St. Anne, Bismarck, North Dakota; St. Dominic, Northfield, Minnesota; and Sacred Heart, St. Paul. She also served as director of resident students and teacher at Good Counsel Academy, Mankato, Minnesota. She earned a bachelor's degree in history from the former Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee, in 1956 and a master's degree in geography from St. Louis University in 1965. From 1966 through 1979, she taught geography to sisters during summer sessions at Good Counsel. A highlight of the class was a three-day class trip to Minnesota's North Shore of Lake Superior.

Following a sabbatical in 1980, Sister Marjorie taught geography for three semesters at the former Mount Mary College (now University) in Milwaukee. In the fall of 1982, she began working with Sister Barbara Brumleve in the Interprovincial Heritage Resource Project, which laid the foundation for renewed interest in SSND heritage and led to the establishment of formal archives in all the North American SSND provinces and regions. According to a  
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*Sister Marjorie Myers*



1983 article in "Soundings," the two sisters visited over 150 SSND foundations, past and present, talked with sisters and hunted for heritage materials." After six months on the road, they were "back in St. Louis cataloging parish histories, newspaper articles, letters, notes and taped oral histories." They also prepared a questionnaire for sisters that asked for basic information and a ministry history. The information gathered became the basis for the present SSND personnel database. Sisters Marjorie and Barbara met with heritage and archives personnel from each province and together, developed a common filing system for SSND heritage materials. From 1982 until 1994, Sister Marjorie was instrumental in the design of the SSND Grassroots Heritage summer workshops.

Sister Marjorie continued in the Interprovincial Heritage Resource Project until 1985. For the next two years, she lived at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, and studied liturgy and organ. In 1987, she became the liturgist, organist and archivist at Good Counsel. She was deeply involved in the 1992 Mother Caroline Friess centennial celebration in Milwaukee, as well as the local celebration in Mankato. She also directed several retreats based on the writings of Mother Caroline. In 1988, a small group of sisters from each of the religious congregations with motherhouses in Minnesota, met to begin collaboration on a project that resulted in the book, "They Came to Teach," which was published in late 1994 and told the story of sisters who taught in Minnesota. Sister Marjorie was the SSND representative in this project. In early 1993, she became a senior clinical research assistant to Dr. David Snowdon from the University of Kentucky's Center on Aging, assisting with the Nun Study. She also helped to set up the archives for the study.

In late 1994, Sister Marjorie began work as an assistant to the "SSND ambassador," Sister Carmen Burg, in Mankato, Minnesota. Recognizing her communication skills, the North American SSND provincials appointed Sister Marjorie coordinator of the former North American Major Area (NAMA) communications in 1998, a position she held until 2001. From 2001 until 2004, she researched and eventually wrote the history of SSND in Guam. Beginning in 2004, she provided community service at Good Counsel in a number of ways, especially as an organist and as an "ambassador" in her own right. She was known as a gentle person with a strong love for SSND and her family. She was an avid reader and had a great love for music.

The funeral liturgy, with Father Eugene Stenzel as presider, was held June 14, in Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel. A prayer service of remembrance preceded the funeral liturgy. Burial of her remains will follow at a later date in the Good Counsel cemetery. She is survived by two sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND associates. She was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas and Agnes (Hoffman) Myers, her sisters, Audrey Humbert and Constance Ogden, and her brothers, Robert, Benjamin and Thomas.

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*By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND*