



In Loving Memory

Sister Mary Ann Sadowski

Sister Mary Ann (formerly M. Julia Ann) Sadowski, 95, died on Sunday, November 18, 2018, at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. She was the oldest of five children born to Aloysius and Juliana (Dobroyowski) Sadowski of Milwaukee. She was baptized at St. Hedwig's Church in Milwaukee on November 11, 1923.

Because she was born on All Saints Day, Mary Ann considered her birthday to be an extra special day, ranking at the same level as Christmas and Easter. At the time Mary Ann was born, one of the nurses told her mother that she was going to have a little saint. These words remained with her throughout her entire life.

Mary Ann remembers life with her family as a delightful experience. She and her family did many things together including having dinner in the park, visiting relatives, attending parties and riding into the country every Sunday afternoon in her father's car. Mary Ann also enjoyed drawing and taking care of her family's garden.

However, it was to music that Mary Ann was most drawn. She began taking piano lessons in third grade from Sister Austin Gersheski, SSND, at St. Mary Czestochowa parish school in Milwaukee. When she was 10 years old, Mary Ann entered a music contest that was sponsored by the music department from the Milwaukee motherhouse. She won first prize in her division. Mary Ann also performed as a soloist, participated in recitals, accompanied vocalists and instrumentalists, played in several orchestras and sung in the parish choir. She particularly enjoyed accompanying her mother, who was also an accomplished pianist and vocalist. Mother and daughter made a great team and were invited to occasionally entertain. Through her musical pursuits, Mary Ann met many wonderful people.

From the age of six, Mary Ann wanted to be a sister and admired the School Sisters of Notre Dame who taught her at St. Mary Czestochowa parish school. She states in her autobiography, "In going to high school on the old street cars, I passed up the Milwaukee Street motherhouse twice a day - it was part of my life. How I used to wonder what was up on that fifth floor under those windswept gables! And how I loved to go with my Aunt to take Mass stipends there and be allowed to go into those big parlors on old Milwaukee Street and maybe receive a holy card from the portress!"

In 1941, after graduating from St. Stanislaus High School, Milwaukee, Mary Ann was indecisive about entering the SSND candidature, so she went to work as a typist for Koehring Company in Milwaukee. She had started taking lessons and classes at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music in Milwaukee in high school and continued her musical training while she worked.

After working for one year, Mary Ann was again called to the religious life but still was not certain it was the right choice. She sought the advice of a former teacher, Sister M. Evelyn Youritz, SSND, who arranged for Mary Ann to talk with the superior and make arrangements to enter the congregation. Mary

continued

Birth
November 1, 1923

Baptism
November 11, 1923

Profession
August 9, 1945

Death
November 18, 2018

Burial
Notre Dame of Elm Grove
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 Mary Ann Sadowski



Ann continued to wrestle with the decision, plus she was reluctant to tell her parents. Her mother gave her blessing to pursue her calling, but her father was less than enthusiastic. Mary Ann recalls, "He was constantly against it until the first visiting Sunday and he came with all smiles. He became a very loyal ND father, having helped move the old motherhouse out to Mequon for six months - donating each Saturday to drive things out to Mequon. In fact, he knew so much about the place that he gave me my first tour of the new motherhouse." Mary Ann entered the candidature in 1942 and professed first vows on August 9, 1945.

After first profession, Sister Mary Ann taught at St. Joseph, West Allis, Wisconsin for one year. She then was missioned to St. Alphonsus in Chicago for a year. She returned to Wisconsin in 1947 where she taught at St. John Kanty, Milwaukee (1947-1954) and Blessed Sacrament, Milwaukee (1954-1956). She returned to Chicago in 1956, where she taught at the Academy of Our Lady until 1966. She served as an organist and music teacher at all of her missions. Sister Mary Ann received a bachelor's degree in music from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, in 1953 and master's degree in music from the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, Milwaukee, in 1958.

Beginning in 1966, Sister Mary Ann served as a professor of music at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and in 1970, was chair of the music department. During this period she attended many workshops including one led by Dr. Robert Pace of Columbia University, New York, on group piano instruction, and another held by the Contemporary Music Project at Eastman, New York, through a Ford Foundation Grant.

In 1981, she returned to teaching in Milwaukee grade schools and as an independent piano teacher, serving in this capacity through 1989. She taught piano full-time at Karnes Academy from 1989 through 2010. Since 2010, she had been serving in prayer and presence, most recently at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin.

May Sister Mary Ann experience eternal joy and peace in the arms of her loving God!

*This remembrance was compiled from
SSND archival information*

To make a memorial gift,
please visit our secure
online donation page
www.ssndcentralpacific.org/donate



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world
through education