



In Loving Memory

Sister Mary Grace Cieminski

Sister Mary Grace Cieminski was born on June 20, 1929 to Josephine and Joseph Cieminski in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was baptized at St. Josaphat and attended public school until the third grade. When her family moved later to the east side of Milwaukee she attended St. Joseph's school and here first met School Sisters of Notre Dame. She wrote that, "a lot of credit goes to the teachers I had for my religious vocation."

Sister Mary Grace also wrote that she personally committed herself to a vocation at age 12, in sixth grade. She notes that her desire only grew stronger as she witnessed the example of sisters.

She attended high school at Messmer High School and entered the Candidature after tenth grade in 1947. She was first missioned to teach second grade at Sacred Heart school in Grand Rapids Michigan. She professed first vows on July 21, 1950 and received the religious name Mary Corita.

Sister Mary Grace received her B.S. in education from Mount Mary College and an M.A in reading education from Clarke College. She served as a teacher in primary and middle grades for 32 years at more than a dozen schools. She wrote that, "Whenever I was asked which grades I like teaching the best I find it hard to answer. In the second grade children I found that beautiful quality of innocence. With children in the third and fourth grades I enjoyed the interest shown, and with fifth graders I loved them for their eagerness. These grades were my favorites because of the joy and enthusiasm of the children."

Sister Mary Grace wrote of serving at so many different places that, "Mission life itself is not easy because there was not enough time to get to know the sisters at each mission. However with each transfer I was at peace because I believed Jesus was waiting for me in my new place and I was about to receive new graces. Perhaps my health caused some problems because I was not strong but always joyful and willing to lend a helping hand."

She retired from classroom teaching in 1982 and continued to serve in ministry as a tutor, helping with podiatry and caretaking for older sisters, sewing for the poor and with her prayer and presence. In 2011 she settled at Notre Dame of Elm Grove and writes of living there, "where I am most happy. I love everyone and try to participate in the many events offered daily. Here I have much quiet time to deepen my spiritual life and enjoy the beauty around me."

continued

Birth
June 20, 1929

Baptism
August 31, 1929

Profession
July, 21, 1950

Death
March 29, 2017

Burial
Notre Dame of Elm Grove
Cemetery
Elm Grove, Wisconsin

*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

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Sister Mary Grace was known for her warm smile, hugs and kind spirit. She was creative and known for being a talented singer. A sister who lived with Mary Grace shared a story about how the two of them would get up to sing for the 6 a.m. Mass at St. Peter and Paul. After singing the same Mass for a long period of time they decided to write their own Mass and had a ball laughing together.

Sister Mary Grace was born to eternal life on March 29, 2017, age 87. Survived by her brothers Frank, Joseph and Jerry, her sisters Betty Biernat, Patricia Gormely, Margaret Koegel, nieces, nephews, dear friends and the SSND Community. Preceded in death her parents, her brothers Donald, Harry, Raymond and Stanley and sisters Sally Skeradore, Esther Pilan, Alice and Irene Cieminski.

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