



In Loving Memory

Sister Mary Hope Tritz

Sister Mary Hope Tritz, 89, died on Thursday, August 9, 2018, at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. She was born in Pittsville, Wisconsin, the ninth child of Benedict and Susan (Thielen) Tritz. At her baptism, she was given the name Corrine Genevieve.

Corrine grew up on the family farm four miles outside of Pittsville. In her autobiography she reflects, “My childhood was happy, but I always felt a bit insecure, inferior and lonesome—even with all those brothers and sisters! Part of this was due, I think, to the fact that none of our close neighbors or cousins from Pittsville had girls my age.”

Corrine attended a one-room country schoolhouse for the first five years of school. She always enjoyed school, as it gave her a chance to spend time with friends, and she didn’t have to work so hard. Starting in sixth grade, Corrine attended St. Joachim’s School in Pittsville, where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She would often help her teacher Sister Vittoria Degenfelder after school while waiting for a ride home. At this point in her life, Corrine began thinking about becoming a sister.

Throughout her childhood, family and parish were the center of her life. She shares in her autobiography, “Seldom was there a service in church we did not attend. The family rosary was said during Advent, Lent, May and October, plus on other special days. I remember fixing a beautiful display around the picture of the Sacred Heart when we had the dedication. I also made a ‘novena of novenas’ to our Mother of Perpetual Help so all would work out, and I could enter the convent.”

After she graduated from St. Joachim’s School, Corrine stayed on the family farm to help with the work. She often thought about entering the convent but didn’t feel comfortable leaving when she was needed on the farm.

When Corrine was 15, she was invited by her brother and future sister-in-law to visit her sister-in-law’s sisters, who were postulants with the La Crosse Franciscans. However, after visiting with the Franciscans, Corrine knew it wasn’t the place for her, and she tried to forget about convent life. However, the desire remained. She reflects, “I’d go to dances with friends, but many times I would sneak out to the car to be alone. Even while dancing, I would think of being in the convent.”

Eventually, Corrine received information about becoming an SSND and she entered the candidature on August 28, 1946. In her autobiography, Corrine says, “My parents drove me to Milwaukee on entrance day, August 28, and as I walked up the stairs at the Milwaukee Street entrance, I KNEW that was where I belonged.”

Corrine was received into the novitiate on August 10, 1948, and given the name Mary Hope. She reflects in her autobiography, “I feel I have been blessed with the virtue of hope, and try to live it out. It was many years later that I

Birth
April 3, 1929

Baptism
April 7, 1929

Profession
August 11, 1949

Death
August 9, 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

continued

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discovered that the feast of Our Lady of Good Hope is on my birthday, April 3, and I had always wanted Mary as my patroness.” During her time in the novitiate, Sister Mary Hope enjoyed sewing; one of her sewing projects was creating a special beaded garment for the Infant of Prague.

Sister Mary Hope professed first vows on August 11, 1949. She was missioned to be a middle school teacher at St. Nicholas in Milwaukee, but the school was not finished being built. Sister Mary Hope began her college work, helped with the supervision of the aspirants, assisted in the infirmary and taught Catechism at St. Nicholas on Saturdays. In February 1950, Sister Mary Hope began teaching second and third grades. She remained at St. Nicholas for 12 years, teaching every grade except first and seventh. During this time, she earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee.

After graduation in 1961, Sister Mary Hope was missioned to teach at Lourdes High School in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. From 1967-1969, she taught at Holy Name and served as superior at St. Joseph, both in Escanaba, Michigan. During this time, she was elected as one of the first district coordinators for province, working with the provincial leader to define the responsibilities for the position. She also earned an M.A. in religious education from the University of Detroit in 1971.

In 1972, Sister Mary Hope was driving back from Notre Dame, Indiana, to pick up a sister from summer school. As she drove through a severe thunderstorm, she lost control of the vehicle and ended up in a ditch on the opposite side of the freeway. She suffered a broken jaw and ankle. After surgery, she recovered at Notre Dame Health Care Center in Elm Grove, Wisconsin.

Sister Mary Hope accepted a teaching position at St. Mary’s in Menasha, Wisconsin, in 1973, where she taught theology and biology. She was called to be the novice directress and coordinator of the formation team at Notre Dame of the Lake in Mequon, Wisconsin, starting in 1977. In 1983, she served as a pastoral associate at St. Hyacinth in Milwaukee. She spent 1986-1989 taking care of her parents in Pittsville.

After spending a year doing volunteer work, Sister Mary Hope served as pastoral associate for St. Bernadette Parish in Milwaukee. She remained there until 1995. She then served for two years as a local leader at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Sister Mary Hope served in pastoral care and as a volunteer for several nursing homes around the Milwaukee area until 2005. She retired to Notre Dame of Elm Grove and served as a volunteer and assistant community leader. Since 2015, Sister Mary Hope served in prayer and presence at Our Lady of the Angels, Greenfield, Wisconsin.

A prayer and wake service was held on August 15, 2018, at Our Lady of the Angels with the funeral Mass held the next day at Notre Dame of Elm Grove. Burial was at Notre Dame of Elm Grove cemetery. May Sister Mary Hope find eternal rest and joy in the arms of God!

*This remembrance was compiled from
SSND archival information*