



Birth

June 8, 1924

Baptism

June 21, 1924

Profession

July 29, 1943

Death

December 13, 2017

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 Naomi Curtin

Sister Mary Naomi Curtin, 93, passed away on December 13, 2017. She was a teacher, principal and educational consultant, and will be remembered for her smile, creativity, eagerness, forward-looking stance and desire to help others grow.

Sister Naomi began her autobiography with this story: “Laboriously climbing up the tall ladder with rungs almost too far apart to be reached by baby legs was a tiny three year old girl. Her unruly curls were streaming in the summer breeze and her big blue eyes were sparking with mischief and adventure as her chubby hands clutched one rung after another until she finally reached the top. Not content with merely reaching the top, the little adventuress reached out exploring hands and climbed along to the very peak of the roof and would have fallen to certain death had not my brother’s strong arms encircled me (yes, it was I) and carried me to safety.”

Naomi was one of 14 children, six boys and eight girls. She was born on June 8, 1924, on a small farm southeast of Marshfield, Wisconsin. Since Naomi was the eldest of the girls, she claimed she had no need for dolls – she had the real thing. Her earliest recollection was gathering around her mother and father for a bedtime story before kneeling down to say goodnight to Jesus.

Sister Naomi was proud of her family. Her dad worked on the roads, in addition to their small farm. He was the one who orchestrated the prayers in the family. Her mother organized the work in the family, making sure the boys helped also. Family was of utmost importance in Sister Naomi’s life. She said during her 70th Jubilee, “A large family prepares you for anything and everything.”

Her father’s aunt was Mother Aquina, who served as leader of the former Milwaukee Province at one time. Naomi looked up to her and wanted to be like her, so she took her name Sister Mary Aquina when she entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame. After profession of her first vows, Sister Mary Aquina was assigned to St. Michael’s in Milwaukee. During those years, she prayed to receive direction from God. She said, “The next three years were spent in a rather thorny preparation for perpetual vows at which another of my strong desires – the desire to be a missionary - was granted. A mission on the little Pacific Island of Guam was to be opened.”

In Guam, Sister Mary Aquina taught in several elementary and junior high schools. Her extracurricular activities included religious guidance, instruction of altar boys, directing the Holy Name organizations and coordinating the village fiesta and Christmas plays. Sister Naomi said of her experience, “The work on the island has proved an even greater

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister Mary Naomi
Curtin*



challenge than I had anticipated. May the Sacred Heart continue to give each of us the grace we need to meet this challenge in the true spirit of Notre Dame.”

After some years back in the United States, Guam beckoned again. It was while working in the schools in Guam where Sister Naomi began what she considered her greatest achievement – assisting others to reach their highest potential through Silva Mind Development, a form of meditation. Much of the research for her doctorate on this subject was done on Guam.

The sisters, students, and adults on Guam loved her, but after nine years in Guam, Naomi was called to her next ministry. She went to the University of Oregon, in Eugene, Oregon, to complete her doctorate and teach at the university.

Sister Naomi moved to Burnsville, Minnesota, to serve as a teacher, curriculum coordinator and consultant for Silva Mind Growth, Inc.

Naomi retired to Our Lady of Mount Carmel in 1996. During her first three years there, she continued as a roving lecturer for Silva International, Inc., and taught classes to her fellow School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Even after she moved to Our Lady of the Angels in 2011, her bright smile and positive attitude were her trademark. She has made her last journey “straight into the Sacred Heart of Jesus.”

She is survived by four brothers, Thomas, Vernon, Richard and Jerome Curtin, and three sisters, Maxine Hughey, Mary Ellen Geoffroy and Marleen Tucker.

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