



Birth
January 30, 1924

Baptism
February 24, 1924

Profession
July 22, 1945

Death
May 30, 2017

Burial
Our Lady of Good Counsel,
Cemetery
Mankato, Minnesota

*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 Maureen (Mary Kevin) Murray

Sister Maureen (Mary Kevin) Murray, 93, died May 30, 2017, in Notre Dame Health Care, Mankato, Minnesota. In mid-April, she was diagnosed with invasive cancer and soon entered hospice care.

Sister Maureen, the third child and only daughter in a family of four children, was born January 30, 1924, in London, England, and baptized Maureen Gertrude at the Church of Our Lady of Grace about a month later. Her father, Richard, a British citizen of Irish descent, came to the US from London prior to 1918 and was working for Great Northern Railroad when he met his future wife. After their marriage and the birth of their first child, Kevin, they moved back to London, where Maureen and her brother, Richard (Dick), were born. In 1926, when Maureen was two, the family moved back to St. Paul, where a fourth child, Michael, was born. Maureen's father applied for and received US citizenship, and it was assumed that the two children born in London were also granted citizenship.

Sister Maureen wrote in her autobiography, "The four of us children were greatly blessed. Our parents loved God and the Church. They shared their deep faith with us in many, many ways: my father, through his many years as a liturgical musician, and my mother, in the many ways she reached out to the lonely, the sick and the poor." Maureen attended a public school across the street from their home for kindergarten through second grade. She enrolled in St. James School, St. Paul, for grades three through seven and was taught by Sisters of St. Joseph. When she was in eighth grade, a new parish and school opened in their neighborhood; Maureen was a member of Holy Spirit School's first graduating class in 1938. She completed two years of high school at St. Francis de Sales, where she first met the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Since St. Francis had only two years of high school, Maureen had to make a decision about where to finish school. She visited Good Counsel Academy in Mankato with some classmates, and knew immediately that was where she wanted to go.

Maureen became a boarder at Good Counsel in the fall of 1940. During her two years at Good Counsel, she made the decision to enter the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Following graduation in May 1942, she became an SSND candidate in August. This was a hard time for her family as her two older brothers joined the military about the same time. This was also shortly after the US entered World War II and all non-citizens were required to register. Maureen continued the citizenship story, "Dick and I had always thought that we became American citizens when our father was naturalized. Now we tried to find out if we needed to register so as not to be fined/deported. The officials we consulted did not agree. When Dick enlisted in the Air Force, he became a citizen. I learned that I had duo-derivative citizenship, but that I no longer had citizenship in England because I had been gone from there for more than ten years."

As a second-year candidate, Maureen taught second grade at St. Agnes, St. Paul. She was received into the novitiate in 1944 and given her brother's

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Maureen Murray



name – Sister Mary Kevin. Following profession in 1945, she began 26 years of ministry as a Catholic school teacher. She taught at St. Francis de Sales, St. Paul (1945-47); Holy Rosary, North Mankato (1947-57); St. Philip, Minneapolis (1957-59); and Sacred Heart, St. Paul (1959-64). After two years teaching high school English and religion at Trinity, Dickinson, North Dakota, Sister Maureen was among the first SSNDs to open the new Grace High School in Fridley in collaboration with the Christian Brothers in 1966. She earned a BA in English from St. Catherine's in 1955 and an MA in English from Creighton University in 1961.

In 1971, Sister Maureen was elected to the Mankato Province Leadership Team as coordinator of community, a position she held until 1975. She spent the next four years in Winona, serving as editorial director at Saint Mary's College Press. She also volunteered at the Center for Spiritual Development, mentoring priests, sisters and lay people who desired to become spiritual directors. In 1979, she was elected provincial leader of the SSND Mankato Province. As provincial leader, Sister Maureen was privileged to participate in the 1982 General Chapter and was one of the four English-speaking writers of the final version of "You Are Sent," the SSND rule of life. She commented, "We worked diligently with four German-speaking sisters to assure that the wording was the same in English and German. Imagine our great joy when 'You Are Sent' was approved by the 1982 General Chapter and later by the Congregation of Religious and Secular Institutes in 1986." Another grace-filled time for Sister Maureen was the 1985 beatification of Mother Theresa Gerhardinger, which took place in Rome. Sister Maureen served two terms as provincial leader, which were followed by a one-year sabbatical.

Sister Maureen returned to Saint Mary's Press in June 1988, this time as a customer sales representative, assisting customers in matching their needs to Saint Mary's Press products. In September 1991, Archbishop John Roach of St. Paul and Minneapolis appointed her coordinator of the Archdiocesan Retirement Fund for Religious campaign. She remained in this position until 1999. She continued as a spiritual director and was active in her local parish. In 2015, she moved to Good Counsel.

Sister Maureen touched the lives of many people. Some of her former students from Holy Rosary gathered with her yearly, and others communicated with her via letter, phone or e-mail. Her circle of outreach included family, friends, priests, religious and colleagues. Ever proud of her Irish heritage, she felt extremely graced and blessed in her life.

The funeral Liturgy, with Father Eugene Stenzel as presider, was held Monday, June 5, in Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel, followed by burial in the Good Counsel Cemetery. A prayer service of remembrance was held prior to the funeral Liturgy. She is survived by her brother, Michael (Gerry), her sister-in-law, Ruth, nieces and nephews and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Gertrude (Purcell) Murray, and two brothers, Kevin and Richard.

By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND

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