



In Loving Memory

Sister Miriam Therese Gill

Sister Miriam Therese's life began in Huntington, Indiana on September 20, 1923, the first child of Fred Gill and Lucille Yerman Gill. They named her Mary Margaret, but she was always called Miriam. Her baptism followed three days later at Saints Peter and Paul Parish. She had five siblings: two brothers, two sisters, and one who died in infancy.

The next major event of her life is that when she began school at her home parish, she found that she liked it very much, but missed the companionship of her sister, with whom she was used to spending a lot of time. When she was eight-years-old, she and her sister received their first Eucharistic. They were also privileged to be confirmed in the Catholic Church a few months later in October.

Her teachers from first grade through 12th were School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). The seed for her vocation to religious life was planted early and always grew. When she graduated in May of 1941, she applied to enter the candidature of SSND. During the summer she decided that she would like to have a year of employment before she left home; so she applied for a job at the Sunday Visitor in their envelope department from October to August, the following year. In September of 1942, she was happy and ready to carry out her dream.

On August 8, 1944, she was received into the novitiate. During that year she says that she longed to, "give herself irrevocably to Jesus." Her first mission after her profession was St. Leo's, Milwaukee where she taught second grade for a couple of years and then fifth grade for a total of seven years. Her next mission was at St. Ambrose in Chicago. After six years there, she was transferred to the Academy of Our Lady in Chicago where she was challenged by adolescent girls in her algebra and geometry classes. She was an excellent teacher.

Her final years of ministry in education were spent at West Catholic in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with a population of around 1,200 students. She taught math for five years, then was assistant principal for two years and finally, a principal for four years. It was well known that the students loved her. She had a quiet and distinct way of bringing order in the corridors or at an assembly. She treated everyone with respect and was a good listener. In fact, she equally loved plants and animals, especially her guard dog.

Sister found herself answering another call ending her school life; she moved to her home town, Huntington, Indiana, to support her mother in her last years. While doing that she became hired as the Director of Religious Education at SS. Peter and Paul in Huntington. This new endeavor continued for her another 28 years. She became a friend, educator, mentor, spiritual guide and whatever she was called to do for her people. Those she met remember her now as a, "remarkable woman with many talents."

Birth
September 20, 1923

Baptism
September 23, 1923

Profession
August 9, 1945

Death
April 2, 2020

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 Miriam Therese had an early dream of giving her all to Jesus. This she did with great fidelity and love. Our Foundress Blessed Theresa says, “Love is a sign through which the world should be convinced that we believe in Jesus.” May she now rest in peace.

By Sister Marie Rose Van Deurzen, SSND

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