



In Loving Memory

Sister M. Nadine Touhey

Sister Nadine Touhey, 87, died peacefully January 5, 2023, at Benedictine Living Community in Shakopee, Minnesota.

Sister Nadine, the fourth of five children in the family of William and Elsie Touhey, was born on the family farm near Avoca in southwest Minnesota on June 11, 1935. Sister Nadine commented, “Before my birth, my mother said a rosary asking Our Lady’s help. She promised that if I were a girl and healthy, she would name me Mary and dedicate me to her. Mother kept the first part of that promise on June 23 when I was baptized and named Mary Ann.” Mary Ann attended country school for eight years and noted that she was the smartest student in her grade (but also the only student in her grade).

Birth
June 11, 1935

Baptism
June 23, 1935

Profession
July 17, 1955

Death
January 5, 2023

Burial
Our Lady of Good Counsel

In 1949, Mary Ann enrolled as a freshman boarder at Good Counsel Academy in Mankato, Minnesota, where she first met the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). She knew that she wanted to be a teacher but did not give a religious vocation much thought. However, as a senior, the question haunted her, “What should I give to the Lord for all that he has given to me?” And her answer was, “I don’t know.” Two weeks before her graduation, both her mother and Sister Mary Frederic Reding, SSND, asked if she had ever considered a religious vocation. She knew it was time to decide and at Mass the next day said, “Yes, Lord.” Only after telling her mother of her decision did her mother tell her of the promise she had made before her birth. Mary Ann counted the promise as a blessing on her choice.

Mary Ann entered the SSND candidature in September 1953. She was received into the novitiate in 1954 and given the name Sister Mary Nadine, with Our Lady of Hope as her patron. She professed first vows on July 17, 1955. Following a year of study, she received her first assignment in 1956, teaching primary grades at Immaculate Conception School in Lonsdale, Minnesota. She continued her educational ministry in Minnesota, by teaching intermediate grades at St. Joseph the Worker, Mankato (1960-63), and junior high at St. Felix, Wabasha (1963-65); St. Matthew, St. Paul (1965-66); St. John the Baptist, Mankato (1966-69); and St. Catherine, Redwood Falls (1969-71), where she also served one year as principal. In her autobiography she wrote, “Teaching, I positively loved it! I devoured teacher magazines to find ways to make learning fun. It was also important to me to have students be kind to each other as well as learn.”

Sister Nadine earned her bachelor of arts from Mount Mary College (now University) in 1966 and spent the 1971-72 school year at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, where she earned a masters in education. She later earned another masters this time in human development, from St. Mary’s College, Winona, Minnesota.

From 1972 until 1977, Sister Nadine served as an educational consultant for SSND in the Diocese of Winona, (now Diocese of Winona-Rochester) Winona, Minnesota, and the Diocese of Bismarck, Bismarck, North Dakota. She visited

*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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schools, conducted workshops and offered encouragement and advice to both staff and administration of the schools. The driving involved in this ministry took a toll on her back, however, and she needed a change in ministry. For one year, she taught religious education at the Owatonna Religious Education Center, Owatonna, Minnesota, and then was a pastoral minister in Raymond, Minnesota, from 1978 until 1983. During her years in Raymond, she also worked with the SSND General Council as a facilitator for international leadership meetings.

Ministering to the elderly had been an interest of hers, and in 1983, that became her focus at the Willmar Health Care Center, Willmar, Minnesota, where she worked as a mental health counselor in a rehabilitation program. She transitioned into director of activities at Bethesda Homes in Willmar in 1985, a position she held until 1996. She fully invested herself in this line of work and joined the National Association of Activity Professionals. Using the skills of her educational background, she edited three books for activity professionals: a 90-hour course in basic activity training; a training course for activity directors; and a guide for the development of activity consultants. At the national convention of activity professionals in 1995, she received a plaque which read, "In appreciation of Nadine Touhey, SSND, for your dedication and devotion to the advancement of the Activity Profession in developing the Modular Education Program."

Following a year of freelance work, Sister Nadine was employed by the Minnesota Workforce from 1997 to 2000, and assisted unemployed and underemployed persons in finding work. At the same time, she served in pastoral care at Rice Memorial Hospital in Willmar until 2005, and was a chaplain at the Willmar Regional Treatment Center from 2000 to 2005. In 1998, she published, "Bits and Pieces and Memories," a self-directing journal for elders.

In 2005, Sister Nadine and her longtime friend and community member, Sister Cele Schueller, SSND, answered another call. St. Joseph Parish in Owatonna, Minnesota, had a dream "to invite retired sisters to live in the parish and be available to spend time with shut-ins, homebound people who cannot go out anymore because of illness or because they cannot drive." The parish specifically wanted the sisters to live in community. The sisters carried out their ministry of presence in Owatonna until 2015, when they moved to Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minnesota. As part of the Notre Dame Hall retirement community, Sister Nadine continued to share her gifts with both sisters and staff. Family was also important in her life and she looked forward to visits from nieces and nephews.

The funeral mass for Sister Nadine was held January 12, 2023, in the Windermere Chapel, Shakopee, Minnesota, with her nephew, Father Lon Konold, OMI, as presider. Visitation and sharing of memories preceded the liturgy. Burial in the Our Lady of Good Counsel cemetery in Mankato followed. She is survived by nieces and nephews; and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame; and SSND associates. She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Elsie (Haberman) Touhey; her sister, Patricia Konold; and her brothers, Duane, Bernard and James.

By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND