



In Loving Memory

Sister M. Paula Young, SSND

Sister M. Paula Young, 91, died Dec. 12, 2016, in Notre Dame Health Care, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minnesota. Sisters had been keeping vigil with her for several days, and three sisters were with her when she died.

Sister Paula (Maryann) was born March 20, 1925 in St. Paul, along with an unexpected twin sister, who was named Mary Jane. Both babies were in danger of death, and were baptized in the hospital on March 23. Mary Jane died the next day.

Sister Paula’s family moved from Hazel Park, a suburb of St. Paul, to St. Paul shortly after her second birthday. Sister Paula commented, “Had we remained in Hazel Park, in all probability I would never have known Notre Dame Sisters. As it is, I entered the first grade of Sacred Heart School four months after my fifth birthday, and have been with the Notre Dame Sisters ever since.”

Maryann first felt the call to become a sister during her eighth grade year. When she told her parents that she wanted to go to Good Counsel to become a sister, they gave their consent, “adding that should I ever feel differently about it, the thought of their disappointment must never keep me from changing my mind.”

Maryann entered the SSND aspiranture in Mankato in the fall of 1938. She graduated from Good Counsel in 1942, and became an SSND candidate that fall. As a second year candidate, she taught fourth grade at St. Matthew School, St. Paul. She was received into the novitiate in July 1944, and given the name Sister Mary Paula.

Following first profession of vows in 1945, she taught grades three and four at St. John’s School, Mankato. The next year she moved to St. Mark’s, Shakopee, where she stayed until 1952 as a junior high teacher. She earned a bachelor’s in history from the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1952. That same year, Sister Paula started her high school teaching ministry, serving at St. Anthony, Lismore; Don Bosco, Gilbertville, Iowa; St. Agnes, St. Paul; and Loyola, Mankato. Her subject areas were English, journalism and French. While at Loyola, she served as adviser to the school paper, The Loyolan, in addition to her teaching responsibilities. One of her students, Gary Eichten, who later became a Minnesota Public Radio personality, credited Sister Paula with influencing his choice of journalism as a career. She earned a master’s in modern languages, specializing in French, from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, in 1968.

In fall 1967, Sister Paula assumed a new responsibility: public relations director for the former Mankato Province. She was the Mankato representative on an interprovincial communications committee, and also served as the last editor of the SSND Interprovincial Newsletter (IPNL). She also produced the province’s first pictorial directory. In 1972, she joined the editorial staff of the Winona diocesan newspaper, The Courier, while

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Birth
March 20, 1925

Baptism
March 23, 1925

Profession
July 22, 1945

Death
Dec. 12, 2016

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

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continuing part-time in SSND public relations. Beginning in 1973, The Courier position became full-time. She handled national and diocesan news releases, covered diocesan stories, took pictures, and did the layout. She wrote about this experience: “I loved the work and as part of it, I was sent to Rome to report on the Holy Year of Pope Paul VI.”

In 1976, Sister Paula moved across the Mississippi River to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where she became the news and photo editor for the diocesan newspaper, the Times Review. She felt strongly about the role of the Catholic press, and stated in a 1977 SSND publication: “Our role in the Catholic press is to make the whole Church the possession of all its members. We want to extend horizons beyond the parish, beyond the diocese, beyond the country to the whole world. The Gospel mandate is to go out to all the world. We try to bring some of that whole world to our readers. . . .For those of us engaged in the Catholic press, it is truly a work of evangelization.” Bishop Loras Watters invited Sister Paula to return to The Courier as editor-in-chief in 1978, and she accepted the position. A highlight of this time was the visit of Pope John Paul II to Des Moines in 1979. Sister Paula wrote, “I went to Iowa for the visit of Pope John Paul II. I was able to take his picture and run it on the front page of The Courier as our own photo, not one purchased from a news service.” Sister Paula served as The Courier editor until August 1980.

Sister Paula then served as building coordinator and director of hosted groups at Good Counsel Education Center for two years. Following a short sabbatical in 1982, she worked as a pastoral minister and director of religious education, first at New Ulm Cathedral and then in Hastings. In 1990, she became director of volunteers at St. Mary’s Home in St. Paul, where she worked with several other SSNDs. She used her editorial skills to coordinate the volunteer newsletter, helped start a recycling committee, and became the purchaser of office supplies for the home. In 2000, she retired from her work at St. Mary’s, but kept busy as a part-time receptionist for Central Internal Medicine. In 2006, she fully retired, and joined with other sisters in the Winslow Commons apartments to extend a spiritual and compassionate presence to those in the neighborhood.

Sister Paula moved to Good Counsel in 2011, grateful for her many blessings. On her 90th birthday in 2015, she wrote, “A simple act of kindness has a beauty all its own; therefore your prayers, wishes, cards and love are the treasures I truly appreciate.” She was an avid card player and a lover of chocolate. A word often used to describe her was “gracious.” Her favorite expression was “forever Young!”

The funeral Liturgy, with Father Eugene Stenzel as presider, was held Dec. 15 in Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel, followed by burial in the Good Counsel Cemetery. She is survived by one sister, Carol Mulcahy, nieces and nephews, and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur and Lumena (Millette) Young, her sisters Jeannette Marien, Peggy Tharaldson, Aleen and Mary Jane, and a brother, John.

By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND