

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Sister Mary Alberta Sheridan, SSND**  
Educator, Community Service Provider



Sister Mary Alberta Sheridan, a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 84 years, died January 19, 2017, at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton, Conn. She was 101 years old.

Claire Sheridan was born in Providence, R.I., the birthplace of both her father, Albert and her mother, Mabel Mulcahy. Claire was born on December 27, 1915 and was the first of six children. Claire attended Holy Name School, conducted by School Sisters of Notre Dame. Following graduation, she went to Nathan Bishop Junior High School and took business courses for one year. Claire continued taking commercial courses at Hope High School for a year and a half.

When Claire was 11, her mother died after a short illness. This was a turning point for Claire who always had “an ardent desire to become a sister.” Her father’s mother offered to care for the children. Claire wrote: “She, at that time, had five children of her own but her motherly heart had opened to us.” One night, quite suddenly, she died. Claire, now 16, left school and kept house for her father, four brothers, and one sister for two years. Claire’s desire to enter the convent continued and she received permission to go.

On August 29, 1933, Claire received the bonnet and completed her studies at the Institute of Notre Dame. On July 2, 1935, Claire entered the Novitiate and received the name Mary Alberta. Profession took place August 5, 1936.

Sister Alberta's first assignment was to St. Philomena School in Squirrel Hill, Pa. (1936-1938). She then taught at the following schools: St. Teresa, Washington, D.C. (1938-1952); St. Michael, Holidaysburg, Pa. (1952-1953); St. Margaret, Bel Air, Md. (1953-1954); St. John, Frederick, Md. (1954-1957); Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Roxbury, Mass. (1957-1972); St. Mary, Bethel, Conn. (1972-1992). From 1992-2012, Sister gave community service at Bethel. She retired at Villa Notre Dame, Wilton, Conn., in 2012 and moved to the adjacent Lourdes Health Care Center in 2016.

Sister Alberta participated in the Nun Study, an on-going research project, started in 1986 by epidemiologist, David Snowdon, Ph.D. The focus of the study was on the causes and prevention of Alzheimer disease and how people age.

Celebrations were held in Bethel to honor Alberta on her 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> anniversaries as an SSND.

On January 19, surrounded by her nephew, sisters and staff members, Sister Alberta died. A Wake Service was held in the evening on Tuesday, January 24, 2017, in the Chapel of Villa Notre Dame. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Wednesday, March 25. Mass was celebrated by the pastor of St. Mary Parish in Bethel, Rev. Corey Piccinino and assisted by the Revs. Thomas Elliot, CSC., Cyrus Bartolome, Frank Hoffman, Robert Wolfe, and Deacon John Roin. Burial followed at St. Mary Cemetery, Bethel, Conn.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic-Midwest Province, c/o Development Office, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, Connecticut 06897 or online: [http://atlanticmidwest.org/ways\\_to\\_make\\_gifts.html](http://atlanticmidwest.org/ways_to_make_gifts.html)