



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Atlantic-Midwest Communications
410-377-7774 Ext.1240
am-communications@amssnd.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Sister Christine Marie Mulcahy, SSND
Educator, Administrator, Provincial Leader**



BALTIMORE - Sister Christine Marie Mulcahy died peacefully at Maria Health Care Center on Feb.17, 2017 at the age of 87. She was a vowed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 62 years. Interwoven with Sister Christine's more than 50 years in education were calls to leadership in the SSND community, where she served as provincial leader from 1988-96. Sister Christine brought wisdom, intelligence and a sense of perspective to all she did. Her experience and sage advice were encouraging. A true spiritual daughter of Mother Theresa, she said, "I have a strong belief in the future of religious life and in the great potential that we have to serve the Church and the world."

On Feb. 9, 1930, the fifth child of John Martin and Mary Alice Duffy Mulcahy, arrived in Malden, Mass. Christine Marie was preceded by three brothers and one sister. A year and a half later, the family was "doubly blessed with the birth of twins, a boy and a girl." Christine wrote in her autobiography, "Family ties were strong and the blessings of God were abundant."

Christine attended kindergarten at the public school across the street from her home, then transferred to first grade at the parish school, Immaculate Conception, Malden. She "received the Lord into her heart" for the first time in 1937 and was confirmed at the age of 12. After graduation from grammar school in 1943, she went to Girls Catholic High

School where she graduated in May, 1947. Christine was “most grateful to the edifying example and fine training” that she received during her grammar and high school years.

Christine majored in Business Education at State Teachers College (now Salem State University) Salem, Mass. where she earned a Bachelor of Science in 1951. Chris taught business subjects at Wilmington High School in Wilmington, Mass. for one year. She entered the candidature of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Baltimore on Aug. 28, 1952. As a candidate, she taught at St. Ann’s Business School, Baltimore.

On July 8, 1953, Christine was received into the novitiate and was given the name, Martin Marie. Sister Martin Marie professed her first vows on July 29, 1954 and “prayed for the grace to arrive at that degree of holiness to which God had called” her.

Sister Christine often said that children are our greatest natural resource. This belief underscored her more than 50 years in the field of education. As a professed sister at her first mission, St. Peter’s Commercial School in Philadelphia, she taught business classes (1954-65). At this time, she received a Master of Science degree with a major in Mathematics Education from Villanova University, Villanova, Pa. (1965). Sister was appointed vice-principal and taught high school classes at Cathedral Academy in Camden, N.J. (1965-70). Returning to Malden to care for her ailing father, Sister taught at her alma mater, Girls Catholic High School (1975-77). She then served as vice-principal and teacher at Bishop Walsh High School, Cumberland, Md. (1977-79) and principal at St. Mary’s High School in Annapolis, Md. (1983-1988). After a year of personal renewal, Sister Christine became headmistress at Notre Dame Preparatory School, Baltimore (1997-2005) where she made significant campus improvements and led capital campaigns which grew the endowment. She focused on curriculum where her energy and insight led a Middle States Evaluation Team to comment that “the school provided a genuinely inspiring environment for learning. The girls are at the center.”

Sister Christine first came to the ministry of provincial leadership as an Area Coordinator for the Baltimore Province (1970-75). A few years later, she was again elected to the Baltimore Province provincial council (1979-83). Speaking of her time as a councilor, Sister Christine remarked that she had “the unique opportunity and privilege” of working with the sisters and living in local missions. She was “encouraged and awed by evident growth and development.”

Sister Christine was elected as provincial leader for the Baltimore Province and served from 1988-96. With her compassion and guidance, Maria Health Care Center at Villa

Assumpta was licensed and it continues to give care, second to none. Her vision and initiative developed the strong SSND Associate component that makes today's associates a vital part of the SSND charism, life and mission. At the close of Sister Christine's term as provincial leader, Sister Phyllis McNally's reflection offered a glimpse of Christine's personal gifts. She said, "Joy and integrity are a hallmark of your relationship with the sisters. Your gift as a peacemaker has been witnessed many times and your legacy of unity will stand for a long time to come."

One of many honors Sister Christine received was the President's Medal from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland (now University) in 2005. Chris was honored for her "dedication to Catholic education, her leadership of the school (Notre Dame Preparatory School) which once shared this campus and still shares its mission and most of all for her person-centered approach in all endeavors."

After retiring from her NDP headmistress position in 2005, Sister Christine volunteered as a GED tutor at Caroline Center, Baltimore until she retired to prayer and presence in 2010.

Sister Christine relied on spiritual nourishment to sustain her spirit. She had a gentle, loving presence and her graciousness extended to all. Family and friends were especially dear to her. Sister Christine's great heart made her generous with her love. Her wit and humor was accompanied by a deep, hearty laugh. In her last years, Sister Christine's humility and trust enabled her to accept the loving care given to her by others.

The Christian Wake Service was held on Thurs., Feb. 23 and the Liturgy of Christian Burial was concelebrated by her nephew, Rev. Brian Mulcahy, O.P. and Villa Assumpta chaplain, Rev. Roman Kozacheson, OFM Cap. on Fri., Feb. 24. Both services were held in the chapel of Villa Assumpta, Baltimore. Notre Dame Preparatory School students formed an honor guard and the Chamber Choir sang at the funeral service in honor of their former headmistress. Interment followed at Villa Maria Cemetery, Glen Arm, Md. Sister Christine is survived by her SSND community, her beloved sister, Betty McKeon and many nieces and nephews.

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