



**School Sisters
of Notre Dame**
Central Pacific Province

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 17, 2017

**Sister DelRey Richard, SSND
Teacher, Principal and Artist**

Mankato, Minn. – Sister DelRey Richard, 81, died suddenly and unexpectedly at 3:20 p.m. on Friday, February 10, 2017, as she was enjoying a snack in the dining room at Good Counsel Convent, Mankato, Minnesota. In her SSND ministry she served as a Catholic elementary school teacher and principal, a secondary school art teacher and as an artist/interior decorator.



Sister DelRey was born November 27, 1935, on the family farm south of Belfield, North Dakota. The third of eight children, she was baptized Ida Mae on December 1 at St. Bernard’s Church. Ida and her brothers and sisters grew up on the family farm on the prairies of western North Dakota. In September of 1942, she became a first grade boarder at St. Mary’s School, New England, North Dakota, about forty miles from her home. For the next twelve years she was taught by School Sisters of Notre Dame.

As a child, Sister DelRey thought seriously about becoming a sister, but pushed the thought aside in high school. However, the desire to be a sister resurfaced during her senior retreat. Ida graduated from St. Mary’s in May 1954, and entered the SSND candidature in September. She was received into the novitiate in July 1955, and given the name Mary DelRey.

Sister DelRey professed First Vows on July 17, 1956, and spent the next year as a college student at Good Counsel. In August 1957, she received her first teaching assignment – grade three at St. Joseph, Red Wing. Three years later, she moved to SS. Peter & Paul, New Hradec, North Dakota, where she stayed until 1962. Sister DelRey continued her Catholic school ministry at Holy Rosary, North Mankato (1962-65); St. Stanislaus, Winona (1965-67); and St. Francis Xavier, Sartell (1967-72), where she also was principal for two years. She taught art and English at Trinity High School, Dickinson, North Dakota during the 1972-73 academic year, and taught art at Good Counsel Academy during the 1973-74 year. She was principal and part time teacher at St. Anne, Bismarck, North Dakota, from 1974 to 1985. While in Bismarck, she was featured in an individual art show in 1981 and taught an art methods class at Mary College. She also served as elementary principal at St. Dominic, Northfield (1985-87) and St. John Vianney, Fairmont (1987-89). During her years in formal education, she earned a BA degree with an art major and English/elementary education minor from Mount Mary College in 1966 and an MA in elementary administration from Northern State College, Aberdeen, South Dakota, in 1981. She was active in local and SSND education associations, conducted art workshops for teachers and served on accreditation teams in both North Dakota and Minnesota. She also belonged to SSND province stewardship and ministry committees.

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Sister DelRey assumed the directorship of Good Counsel Education Center in 1989. She involved herself thoroughly in the position and also reached out to the greater Mankato community, becoming a member of various committees and organizations.

In 1993, following a sabbatical year, Sister DelRey embarked on a multi-faceted ministry in which she used her wide array of artistic talents. First in Mankato for one year, then in St. Cloud for another, and then for several years in Lonsdale (1995-2002), and finally again in Mankato, she was a complete interior decorator – designing, sewing, and arranging in a variety of settings. At Lonsdale, she worked as freelance decorator, going into new and remodeled homes to share her talent for decorating. Back in Mankato, she worked with chapel and provincial house environment and started the Specialty Shop, which featured clothing and other items not only of her design, but of other artists, too. She was often called on to create special settings for meetings, receptions and gatherings. She worked with a keen eye for beauty and an insistence on perfection that was evident in all that she did, whether it was a table setting for a meal (food included), decorations for a festive event, or an accessorizing scarf, to name a few. An accomplished artist, she also produced abstract paintings for family, SSND community and friends. Several photo albums attest to the high quality and great quantity of her work.

The Funeral Liturgy, with Father Andrew Olsem as presider, was held Thursday, February 16, in Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel, followed by burial in the Good Counsel Cemetery. She is survived by her sisters Kathleen Safratowich, Betty (Loren) Counce and Leone Van Vleet. She was preceded in death by her parents William and Antonia (Sauvageau) Richard, her sister Rosalie and her brothers Billy, Leonard and Don. Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Retirement Fund, c/o Resource Development, 170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato, MN, 56001-3138, or online at www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Partner/Donation.

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