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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Sister Mary Kyllene Bodum, SSND**  
Educator, Administrator, Spiritual Director



Sister Mary Kyllene Bodum died peacefully on January 15, 2017 at Norwalk Hospital, Norwalk, Conn. She was 94 years old and had been a professed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 73 years.

Nora Bodum was born on December 30, 1922, in Glen Cove, Long Island, N.Y. Her father, Christian Bodum, was born in Germany, and her mother, Bridie Tobin, in County Limerick, Ireland. Both her parents came to America in their teens and met at the workplace where they fell in love and married. They had three girls. Their second daughter was baptized, Nora, in St. Dominic Church, Oyster Bay, Long Island.

Nora attended St. Patrick Grammar School where they were taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame and graduated in February, 1937. She attended St. Dominic High School in Oyster Bay where she accelerated her first year and was able to graduate in June, 1940. During her junior year, Nora visited colleges and while in Baltimore viewed the SSND motherhouse and found she felt drawn to the candidature rather than to college. She received the bonnet in the Sister's Chapel of St. Patrick on August 28, 1941. The next day she travelled to Baltimore and entered the candidature. Of that day, Nora wrote: "I was the happiest person in the world and thanked Jesus very heartily for allowing me to come to live in His house."

During her two years as a candidate, she attended Notre Dame of Maryland. Nora was received into the novitiate on July 8, 1943, and was given the name Mary Kyllene. Profession took place on July 31, 1944.

Sister Kyllene was assigned to teach at newly opened St. Mark School in Catonsville, Md. (1944-1953). She loved her first mission where she taught grades five through eight. Her next assignment was Notre Dame Preparatory School, an all-girls high school, (1953-1967). Sister Kyllene taught English, Latin and typing. At this time, she was also studying for a master's degree in guidance at Loyola College and served as guidance counselor at the Prep.

From 1967-1969, Sister Kyllene was principal of St. Jane Frances Elementary School, Riviera Beach, in Baltimore. From 1969-1975, she was guidance counselor at St. Mark High School in Wilmington, Delaware. New and different opportunities began for Sister Kyllene as she was stationed with several other religious congregations. One summer, she attended a program in Honduras to learn about life in the foreign missions. As a result, she went to teach at Bishop Juwie High School in Zwedru, Liberia, (1975-1978). When she returned from Africa, she became a member of the Wilton Province in Conn.

Sister Kyllene was principal of Bishop Kearney High School in Rochester, N.Y. (1978-1980), and guidance counselor at Mission High School, Roxbury, Mass. (1980-1984). From 1984-1987, she assisted in congregational services at Wilton. 1987-1988 was a year of renewal. It also provided the opportunity to study CPE and take a spiritual direction course in the Bronx. From 1988-1994, Sister Kyllene served as chaplain at Cabrini Medical Center in Manhattan, N.Y. In 1994, she was called upon to be a community member in the novitiate in Nairobi, Kenya. Returning to the States in 1996, Sister Kyllene provided pastoral care and taught at St Louis University. She also assisted at the Interprovincial Novitiate in St. Louis.

As a hospital chaplain, she brought warmth and compassion to patients and their families. In gratitude, she was awarded certificates from the National Association of Catholic Chaplains and the Pastoral Bereavement Counseling Program.

In 2001, Sister Kyllene retired and came to live at Wilton. She wrote: "I am grateful to the Lord and to all I met on the journey. Let us continue to praise God together." During the night, with dear friends praying at her side, Sister Kyllene died, Jan. 15, 2017.

Kyllene was predeceased by her sister, Ana Marsiello of Tamarec, Fla. She is survived by her sister, Margaret Conologue of Syosset, N.Y. She is also mourned by nieces and nephews, friends, and by her community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

A Wake Service was held on Wednesday, January 18, in the Chapel of Villa Notre Dame. Sisters, relatives and friends paid tribute to Kyllene. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, January 19, by Rev. Thomas Elliot, C.S.C., chaplain. 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)