



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
*Atlantic-Midwest Communications*  
410-377-7774 Ext.1240  
[am-communications@amssnd.org](mailto:am-communications@amssnd.org).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Sister Gilmary Lemberg, SSND**  
**Educator, Artist**



CHICAGO – Sister Gilmary Lemberg, 90, died on Friday, April 28, 2017 at Resurrection Life Center in Chicago. A Chicago native, she had been a vowed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 68 years.

Dorothy Lemberg, the youngest of three children of Harry and Lenore Lemberg, was born on January 2, 1927 in Blue Island, Illinois. Dorothy was educated at St. Barnabas in Chicago and was then taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame in high school at the Academy of Our Lady,

graduating in 1945.

Dorothy entered the candidature in Milwaukee on August 28, 1946, and pursued her interest in art at Mount Mary College. She was received into the novitiate with the name Gilmary, and took her first vows on August 11, 1949. In the next years, Sister Gilmary taught grade school, trading off her music classes for art lessons to the whole school in Marshfield and then Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She recounted that in her first year, she asked her mother to send her for Christmas, “enough watercolors for my whole class.”

In 1960, Sister Gilmary was transferred to Notre Dame High School in Milwaukee, as an art instructor. There, she also taught art lessons entitled “Designed for You,” on the Milwaukee Archdiocesan TV channel, while continuing to teach full-time in school. In 1965, with the beginning of the DeKalb Province (later Chicago), Sister Gilmary moved to DeKalb, where she was one of the pioneers in the “mud fields,” teaching at

Notre Dame of DeKalb, and continuing her Milwaukee programs on weekends, including writing the teachers' manual for the television program.

Sister Gilmarty's art experiences were many and broad. Among them were the production of metal sculptures, large banners for churches, and the design of church renovations in several parishes in the Chicago area and elsewhere. In 1974, when Sister Margaret Ellen Traxler founded Maria Shelter in the poor Englewood area of Chicago, Sister Gilmarty was on hand with her tool-using skills to help turn an old school building into an attractive shelter. Later, she performed the same services for SisterHouse, a Chicago residence for women in recovery.

For several years, Sister Gil served as vocation director for the Chicago Province, while continuing to create art. As she said in her autobiography, "As often as I could, I tried to recycle materials and make them into something new. Old desk tops became stations of the cross...and most of my steel came from scrap yards." She also contributed to the Intercongregational Addiction Program and retreats.

Sister Gilmarty earned her Bachelor of Arts in 1958 from Mount Mary. She received a Master of Arts from the University of Notre Dame in 1965 and a Master of Fine Arts in 1967.

In 1999, Sister Gilmarty celebrated her golden jubilee as an SSND, the same year she went to Paraguay. At San Gerardo parish in Pedro Juan Caballero, over a period of six months, Sister Gil carved two high relief statues of St. Gerard and the Immaculate Conception, and then began work on a large mural behind the main altar. "I called this work," depicting the risen Christ among Paraguayan imagery, "my 'last hurrah' as a professional artist."

In 2011, a retrospective of Sister Gilmarty's art work was held at Mater Christi Church. Some smaller art works were on display, while others were shown as photographs.

Sister Gilmarty died in her sleep on Friday, April 28, 2017. She is survived by nieces and nephews. Visitation was held at Resurrection Life Center, Chicago, on May 9 and later that day there were Visitation, Wake Service and Mass of Christian Burial at Mater Christi Church, North Riverside, Illinois. Burial services were on May 10, at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Alsip, Illinois.

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)