



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 6, 2017

**Mary Grace Cieminski, SSND**  
**Educator**

**Elm Grove, Wis.,** Sister Mary Grace Cieminski, 87, died March 29, 2017. She was born on June 20, 1929 to Josephine and Joseph Cieminski in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. When her family moved to the east side of Milwaukee she attended St. Joseph's school and here first met School Sisters of Notre Dame. She wrote that, "a lot of credit goes to the teachers I had for my religious vocation."

She attended high school at Messmer High School and entered the Candidature after tenth grade in 1947. She was first missioned to teach second grade at Sacred Heart School in Grand Rapids Michigan. She professed first vows on July 21, 1950 and received the religious name Mary Corita.

Sister Mary Grace received her B.S. in education from Mount Mary College and an M.A in reading education from Clarke College. She served as a teacher in primary and middle grades for 32 years at more than a dozen schools. She wrote that, "Whenever I was asked which grades I like teaching the best I find it hard to answer. In the second grade children, I found that beautiful quality of innocence. With children in the third and fourth grades, I enjoyed the interest shown, and with fifth graders I loved them for their eagerness. These grades were my favorites because of the joy and enthusiasm of the children."

Sister Mary Grace wrote of serving at so many different places that, "Mission life itself is not easy because there was not enough time to get to know the sisters at each mission. However with each transfer I was at peace because I believed Jesus was waiting for me in my new place and I was about to receive new graces. Perhaps my health caused some problems because I was not strong but always joyful and willing to lend a helping hand."

She retired from classroom teaching in 1982 and continued to serve in ministry as a tutor, helping with podiatry and caretaking for older sisters, sewing for the poor and with her prayer and presence. In 2011, she settled at Notre Dame of Elm Grove and writes of living there, "where I am most happy. I love everyone and try to participate in the many events offered daily. Here I have much quiet time to deepen my spiritual life and enjoy the beauty around me." Sister Mary Grace was known for her warm smile, hugs and kind spirit. She was creative and known for being a talented singer.

Survived by her brothers Frank, Joseph and Jerry, her sisters Betty Biernat, Patricia Gormely, Margaret Koegel, nieces, nephews, dear friends and the SSND Community. Preceded in death her parents, her brothers Donald, Harry, Raymond and Stanley and sisters Sally Skeradore, Esther Pilan, Alice and Irene Cieminski. Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Retirement Fund, c/o Resource Development, 13105 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122 or online at [www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Partner/Donation](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Partner/Donation).



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