



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sister Jane Joyce, SSND
Educator, Administrator



CHICAGO - Sister Jane Joyce, 90, died peacefully on May 11, 2017. She was a vowed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in the 70th year of her religious profession.

Jane Joyce was born in Chicago on March 5, 1927 to Patrick Joyce and Bridget Heneghan. She and her twin Margaret Therese were the seventh and eighth of ten children. She was baptized at St. Benedict Church. Her autobiography gives a good taste of what her childhood was like:

Staunch Irish immigrants, my parents brought us up in an atmosphere of respect, obedience, and love. My early years are full of happy memories and pleasant years with my brothers and sisters. My sister and I were especially close to our brother Bob, who was just a year older than we. Ingenious at devising novel means of entertainment and highly adventuresome, Bob provided many delightful experiences for us. Anxious to see how the rest of the world lived, we occasionally accompanied Bob on one of his treks to parts unknown. More than once, the happy little wanderers were returned to an anxious mother by a towering Chicago policeman. Perhaps an omen of future events; Bob died before he could complete his first assignment as a Redemptorist priest, that of a foreign missionary to Thailand.

Jane's twin Margaret (later Sister Martinus) entered the SSND aspiranture at the Academy of Our Lady, Chicago after they completed the eighth grade, but Jane attended all of high school at St. Michael Central High School, Chicago, with "no desire to enter the convent." That changed during her third year of high school, when her participation in extra-curricular activities brought her close to one of the SSNDs at St. Michael.

Jane was received into the novitiate in 1946, and given the name of Sister Margaret Therese, her twin's baptismal name! She was professed the following year, "on the centennial day itself," on July 31, 1947. (The first SSNDs to reach the United States had arrived in New York City on July 31, 1847.) She professed final vows on July 31, 1953.

Sister Margaret Therese taught intermediate and junior high grades at several schools in Wisconsin and Illinois, as well as serving as principal and superior in some of them. In 1963, she obtained a Master of Arts degree in history from DePaul University in Chicago.

In 1995, Sister Jane took on the role of alumnae coordinator for the Academy of Our Lady, a task which she thoroughly enjoyed for over ten years. Also, from 2002 to 2005, she served as archivist for the Chicago province. In 2007, she moved to Marian Village, and in 2008, to Resurrection Life Center.

The last of the ten siblings to die, Jane is survived by many loving nieces and nephews, and their families. Visitation was held on May 18 at Resurrection Life Center. The wake service and Mass of Christian Burial were held that evening at Mater Christ Church in North Riverside, Illinois. Interment was the following day 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, Conn. 06897 or online: http://atlanticmidwest.org/ways_to_make_gifts.htm