



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2017

**Sister Maureen (Mary Kevin) Murray, SSND
Teacher, Community Leader**

Mankato, Minn. – Sister Maureen (Mary Kevin) Murray, 93, died May 30, 2017, in Notre Dame Health Care, Mankato, Minnesota. In her SSND ministry she taught elementary and high school, served in provincial leadership, worked for St. Mary’s Press, coordinated the Religious Retirement Fund in St. Paul, and was a spiritual director.



Sister Maureen, was born in 1924, in London, England, and baptized Maureen Gertrude at the Church of Our Lady of Grace about a month later. Her father, a British citizen of Irish descent, came to the US from London prior to 1918 and was working for Great Northern Railroad when he met his future wife. After their marriage and the birth of their first child, they moved back to London, where Maureen and another brother were born. In 1926, when Maureen was two, the family moved back to St. Paul, where her third brother was born.

Sister Maureen wrote in her autobiography, “The four of us children were greatly blessed. Our parents loved God and the Church. They shared their deep faith with us in many, many ways: my father, through his many years as a liturgical musician, and my mother, in the many ways she reached out to the lonely, the sick and the poor.” Maureen attended a public school across the street from their home for kindergarten through second grade. She enrolled in St. James School, St. Paul, for grades three through seven and was taught by Sisters of St. Joseph. When she was in eighth grade, a new parish and school opened in their neighborhood; Maureen was a member of Holy Spirit School’s first graduating class in 1938. She completed two years of high school at St. Francis de Sales, where she first met the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Since St. Francis had only two years of high school, Maureen had to make a decision about where to finish school. She visited Good Counsel Academy in Mankato with some classmates, and knew immediately that was where she wanted to go.

Maureen became a boarder at Good Counsel in fall, 1940. During her two years at Good Counsel, she made the decision to enter the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Following graduation in May 1942, she became an SSND candidate in August. This was a hard time for her family as her two older brothers joined the military about the same time.

As a second-year candidate, Maureen taught second grade at St. Agnes, St. Paul. She was received into the novitiate in 1944 and given her brother’s name – Sister Mary Kevin. Following profession in 1945, she began 26 years of ministry as a Catholic school teacher. She taught at St. Francis de Sales, St. Paul (1945-47); Holy Rosary, North Mankato (1947-57); St. Philip, Minneapolis (1957-59); and Sacred Heart, St. Paul (1959-64). After two years teaching high school English and religion at Trinity, Dickinson, North Dakota, Sister Maureen was among the first SSNDs to open the new Grace High School in Fridley in collaboration with the Christian Brothers in 1966. She earned a BA in English from St. Catherine’s in 1955 and an MA in English from Creighton University in 1961.

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In 1971, Sister Maureen was elected to the Mankato Province Leadership Team as Coordinator of Community, a position she held until 1975. She spent the next four years in Winona, serving as editorial director at Saint Mary's College Press. She also volunteered at the Center for Spiritual Development, mentoring priests, sisters and lay people who desired to become spiritual directors. In 1979, she was elected Provincial Leader of the SSND Mankato Province. As Provincial Leader, Sister Maureen was privileged to participate in the 1982 General Chapter and was one of the four English-speaking writers of the final version of *You Are Sent*, the SSND rule of life. Another grace-filled time for Sister Maureen was the 1985 beatification of Mother Theresa Gerhardinger, which took place in Rome. Sister Maureen served two terms as Provincial Leader, which were followed by a one-year sabbatical.

Sister Maureen returned to Saint Mary's Press in June 1988, this time as a customer sales representative, assisting customers in matching their needs to Saint Mary's Press products. In September 1991, Archbishop John Roach of St. Paul and Minneapolis appointed her Coordinator of the Archdiocesan Retirement Fund for Religious campaign. She remained in this position until 1999. She continued as a spiritual director and was active in her local parish. In 2015, she moved to Good Counsel.

The Funeral Liturgy, with Father Eugene Stenzel as presider, was held Monday, June 5, in Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel, followed by burial in the Good Counsel Cemetery. A prayer service of remembrance was held prior to the Funeral Liturgy. She is survived by her brother, Michael (Gerry), her sister-in-law, Ruth, nieces and nephews and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Gertrude (Purcell) Murray, and two brothers, Kevin and Richard. 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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