



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 15, 2017

**Sister Mary Roman Adam, SSND**  
**Teacher, treasurer, administrator**

**Mankato, Minn.** – Sister Mary Roman Adam, 93, died September 8, 2017 in Notre Dame Health Care, Mankato, Minnesota. In her SSND ministry, she served first as a teacher, and then in several finance-related positions.



Sister Mary Roman was born February 25, 1924, in St. Paul. She was baptized Lorraine Margaret on March 9 at St. Agnes Church. Lorraine attended St. Agnes Grade School, taught by School Sisters of Notre Dame, with Lorraine starting first grade in 1930. Lorraine graduated from eighth grade in 1938 and, because St. Agnes did not yet have a four-year high school, enrolled in St. Joseph Academy where she was taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Following high school graduation in 1942, Lorraine was employed in the accounting office of a St. Paul department store. During this time she felt the call to religious life and finally entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1948 when she was 24 years old.

As a second-year candidate, Lorraine was sent to St. Andrew School in St. Paul, where she taught 41 fourth graders. At her reception into the novitiate in 1950, she was given the name of both her father and brother, Sister Mary Roman. Following profession in 1951, she taught intermediate grades at St. Joseph, Cresco, Iowa, for three years. She then taught junior high at St. Stanislaus, St. Paul (1954-57) and Immaculate Conception, Gilbertville, Iowa (1957-60). In 1960, she was missioned as principal and teacher of grades six through eight at St. Mary, New Trier. Also in 1960, she completed her bachelor's degree from Mount Mary College.

Meanwhile, events in the international SSND congregation became instrumental in shaping the remaining years of Sister Mary Roman's life and ministry. In 1956, the decision was made to move the generalate from Munich to Rome. A villa about 15 miles from the Vatican was purchased, and the general leadership moved to Rome in 1957. In spring 1961, Sister Mary Roman was called to Mankato, where she met the SSND international leader, Mother M. Ambrosia Roecklein, who told Sister Mary Roman that the generalate needed office help and a driver. She asked Sister Mary Roman to come to Rome in August.

Sister Mary Roman moved to Rome in August. At the generalate, she began a ministry of clerical work for the general council, typing letters and documents and assisting with accounting, and helping with driving. She also became the SSND "site manager" for a new, larger generalate being built closer to the Vatican; she visited the site almost daily to supervise the construction. The "ground stone" was placed on November 21, 1961, but it wasn't until January 1964 that the move was made to the new building. The building was still not finished, and there was a need to improvise in several areas.

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SSND held a General Chapter in 1968 in Rome. The position of general treasurer was created then, and Sister Mary Roman became the first general treasurer. That work involved dealing with bankers, providing currency exchanges, working with province reports in both German and English, and watching over and working with investments, to name a few responsibilities, and at the same time using her foresight and creativity to make the best use of SSND resources.

After 14 years in Rome, Sister Mary Roman returned to Mankato in 1975 and became the business administrator of the motherhouse. Four years later she was elected to the provincial council as coordinator of temporalities (treasurer) and continued her administration of the Hill buildings and their maintenance. When her second term on the provincial council ended eight years later, she was asked to be province treasurer, since that office was no longer a part of the council. She continued in this role until 1997. During her years as treasurer, she also worked cooperatively with the treasurers of all the North American SSND provinces in developing interprovincial property and liability insurance, a cooperative investment plan, and other finance-related projects.

Sister Mary Roman retired in 1997 and, following a sabbatical year, continued her financial service as investment fund administrator for several provinces until 2002. She spent the 2001-03 years as a community member in the interprovincial novitiate in St. Louis and then returned to Mankato, where she gave community service in a variety of areas.

The Funeral Liturgy, with Father Eugene Stenzel as presider, was held September 13 in Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel. A prayer service of remembrance was held prior to the Funeral Liturgy. Sister Mary Roman requested that her body be donated to science; a burial date will be determined later. She is survived by her sister, Therese (Robert) Schwinghammer, sister-in law, Rita Adam, nieces and nephews and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was preceded in death by her parents, Roman and Marguerite (Robertson) Adam, her brother Roman and her sister Marian McMullen. 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](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Partner/Donation).

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