



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sister Marion Agnes Jerzak, SSND

Jan. 21, 1929 – Nov. 15, 2017



BALTIMORE – Sister Marion Agnes Jerzak died peacefully at Villa Assumpta on Nov. 15, 2017. She was 87 years old and a vowed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 66 years. Sister Marion Agnes ministered as an educator for 27 years at St. Vincent’s Orphanage, Penn.; St. Patrick School, Md.; St. Joseph Parish School, Baltimore; St. Augustine, Md.; St. John, Fla.

Marion Agnes was born on January 21, 1929, in a little mining town of Blossburg, Penn., youngest of the nine children of Stanley Peter and Helen Marchinack Jerzak. After 25 years in the coal mines, Stanley Jerzak took a maintenance job in the public parks of Rochester, N.Y. From the age of six months, Marion Agnes lived with her family in Rochester.

Beginning with her first school days at Most Holy Redeemer School, Rochester, Marion was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She made her first Holy Communion at Most Holy Redeemer Church in June, 1937 and was confirmed by Bishop James Kearny, Bishop of Rochester, in 1939.

“From the sixth grade,” Marion said in her autobiography, “the thought of becoming a sister entered my mind many times but I never said anything.” As an eighth grader, she met Sister M. Dosithea, who spoke to the students about attending the Juniorate at Holy Angels Academy in Fort Lee, N.J. After much prayer and study Marion graduated from Most Holy Redeemer School on June 25, 1944, then happily spent the next four years at the Juniorate. On her graduation day, June 6, 1948, Marion “prepared to further the development of God’s gift” in the School Sisters of Notre Dame Candidature. She received the bonnet on Aug. 27, 1948 in Most Holy Redeemer Church.

Marion was sent out on mission as a candidate to St. Patrick School, Cumberland, Md. and Most Holy Redeemer School, New York, N.Y. where she taught third grade. Marion entered the novitiate on July 17, 1950 and received the name, Sister Mary Clarence. She professed her first vows on Aug. 4, 1951.

Sister Mary Clarence’s first mission as a professed sister was St. John’s School, St. Petersburg, Fla. where she taught first grade (1951-53). She continued to teach primary

grades at St. Augustine School, Elkridge, Md. (1953-56), St. Joseph Monastery (1956-62), Christ the King, Tampa, Fla. (1962-65), St. Patrick, Mt. Savage, Md. (1965-67), St. Vincent Orphanage, Tacony, Penn. (1967-70), St. Margaret Mary, Harrisburg, Penn. (1971-77), St. Michael and Hollidaysburg Catholic, Hollidaysburg, Penn. (1977-80) and St. John, Westminster, Md. (1982-83). She also worked at Villa Maria, Notch Cliff in the refectory and at Villa Assumpta in community service and as a chauffeur.

Sister Marion Agnes graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland (now University) in 1965. In 1973, she received a Master of Arts in Elementary Education from Seton Hall University, South Orange, N. J.

Sister Marion Agnes has been described as one of the best kept secrets of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was a special person of gentleness and unassuming gratefulness. It is not difficult to imagine her firm, but gentle manner with the young children with whom she spent so many years.

Sister Marion had a sense of humor and fun that attracted others. The story is told of a group of sisters traveling by Greyhound bus to missions in western Maryland. The dark, stormy trip was brightened by Sister Marion's music as she entertained the passengers with her ukulele.

A Christian Wake Service was held on Mon., Nov. 27. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Fr. Roman Kovacheson OFM Cap. on Tues., Nov. 28. Both services were held in the chapel at Villa Assumpta. Interment followed at Villa Maria Cemetery, Glen Arm Road, Glen Arm, Md. Sister Marion Agnes is survived by nieces and nephews.

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: www.amssnd.org