



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sister Ursula E. Kelly, SSND
March 7, 1935 – November 5, 2017



PITTSBURGH - Sister Ursula Kelly died peacefully on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at Vincentian Home, Pittsburgh with her family present. She was 82 years old and a vowed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 62 years. Sister Ursula ministered with the Diocese of Pittsburgh for 38 years. She served as administrator and teacher at St. Joseph Junior High and Most Holy Name, both in Penn. and also taught at St. Joseph Parish School in Baltimore.

On March 7, 1935 John William and Elizabeth O'Toole Kelly welcomed their sixth child, a daughter, whom they named Ursula Elizabeth, to their family. Ursula was born in Pittsburgh as were her parents, two sisters and three brothers. Ursula received the grace of Baptism at St. Philomena Church on March 17, 1935.

Ursula entered the first grade at St. Philomena School in 1941, where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. In May 1942, she received her first Holy Communion. May 8, 1946 was the day of her Confirmation by Bishop Hugh Boyle.

As long as she could remember Ursula desired to be a School Sister of Notre Dame. She remarks in her autobiography that she was influenced by the "beautiful example given by the sisters who instructed" her and her family and their "deep religious attitude." Before her graduation from St. Philomena School in June 1949, Ursula received acceptance to the SSND aspiranture.

During Ursula's high school years at the aspiranture in Fort Lee, N.J., family events occurred which furthered the development of her vocation. Her oldest brother, John, was ordained a Redemptorist priest. She was also "encouraged by the example" of her sister, Kathleen, who was received and professed as Sister Perpetua Marie, SSND. Her sister, Jackie, later became Sister Elizabeth Marie, SSND. Ursula graduated from the aspiranture on May 31, 1953 and returned home to prepare for the reception of the candidate's bonnet at St. Philomena's parish on Aug. 27, 1953.

As an SSND candidate, Ursula attended the Teachers' Training School in Baltimore. She was received into the novitiate on July 12, 1954 and was given the name, Mary

Redemptina. Sister M. Redemptina professed her first vows on Aug. 1, 1955. She was a student at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland (now University) during the school year of 1955-56.

Sister Redemptina began her teaching career as a professed sister in the second, then sixth grades at St. Joseph Monastery School, Baltimore (1956-63). She then returned to the Diocese of Pittsburgh where she spent the rest of her career. Sister Ursula taught sixth and seventh grades at Most Holy Name School (1963-67) and was principal at St. Joseph School, Verona, Penn. (1967-71). Sister Ursula worked with the Offices of Education and Religious Education until her retirement (1971-2009). She was an SSND education consultant, director of religious education in elementary school, supervisor of religious education, director of elementary school catechesis and consultant for elementary school catechesis.

Sister Ursula's higher education achievements include a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, College of Notre Dame of Maryland (now University) 1964, Master of Education in Secondary Education, Duquesne University, 1971 and Master of Arts with a major in Theology, Duquesne University, 1977.

Education was to Sister Ursula, not just work, but a passion. She was dedicated to sharing God's love through education, working with hundreds of teachers and thousands of children. She created and oversaw the monumental task of establishing a catechetical guide and curriculum where it did not previously exist. Her work combined wisdom and skill and at its heart was the dignity of the child.

Sister Ursula was a faith filled woman dedicated to fidelity to God's people and service to others. A wonderful colleague and friend, she built lasting ties and made a difference in peoples' lives. Her source of strength was the Church and her great love of the Gospel. She was a woman of integrity who loved her family, the SSND congregation and serving the Lord.

The Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Paul Cathedral, Pittsburgh. The Very Rev. Kris Stubna, former secretary for Catholic Education for the Diocese of Pittsburgh and rector of the Cathedral, presided at the concelebrated Mass. A cousin, Deacon Michael Kelly, St. Bernadette Church, Monroeville, Penn., was present on the altar. Interment followed at Calvary Cemetery, Pittsburgh, Penn. Sister Ursula is survived by her sisters Kathleen Kelly, SSND and Elizabeth Marie Kelly, SSND.

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

