

April 21, 2018

**Sister M. Karen Lay**  
**Educator, Newman staff member, parish minister**

**Mankato, Minnesota** – Sister M. Karen Lay, SSND, died Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at Mayo Clinic Health System Hospital, Mankato, Minnesota. She was 91, and served as an educator, Newman staff member and parish minister.

The funeral liturgy was held Wednesday, April 4, at Our Lady of Good Counsel chapel, followed by burial at Good Counsel Cemetery.

Sister Karen was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, and professed final vows in 1946. She earned a bachelor's degree in English and history from the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, in 1953, and a master's degree in education from the College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, in 1961.



From 1946 to 1965, Sister Karen ministered in Minnesota teaching primary grades at St. Michael School, St. Michael; St. Agnes School, St. Paul; St. Joseph, Red Wing; St. Agnes, St. Michael and John Ireland, St. Peter; and St. John, Mankato, where she also served as principal. While at St. John, Sister Karen worked with college students preparing to teach religion, and in 1965, began work at the St. Thomas More Newman Center.

In 1966, Sister Karen moved to Dickinson, North Dakota, to teach at Trinity High School. She worked in adult education for the Diocese of Dickinson from 1966 through 1974, and in the Bismarck diocesan Office of Religious Education and Family Life from 1974 through 1982. From 1982 to 1984, she worked with the National Office for Beginning Experience in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

In 1984, Sister Karen returned to Minnesota, where she was a parish minister at Guardian Angels Parish, Lake Elmo, until 1988. After a sabbatical, she served at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish in Hastings until 1990. From 1990 to 1992, she directed the Good Counsel Education Center programs. In 1992, she became a pastoral minister at St. Timothy Parish, Blaine, and in 1994, began a similar ministry at St. James Parish, St. Paul. After retiring from full-time ministry in 2000, Sister Karen worked part time as a receptionist for Central Internal Medicine and as a volunteer at St. Joseph Hospital, both in St. Paul. She also volunteered at East Side Learning Center. In 2015, Sister Karen moved to Our Lady of Good Counsel and continued her ministry of care and concern for others.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Mission Advancement, 170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato, MN 56001 or online at <https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/give>.