

November 3, 2019

Sister Therese (Mary Gerald) Even
Educator; administrator; retreat director

Mankato, Minnesota – Sister Therese (Mary Gerald) Even, SSND, 94, died Sunday, November 3, 2019, in Notre Dame Health Care, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minnesota. She was born on a farm near Gilbertville, Iowa, on July 3, 1925. Two days later, she received the name Therese Ann in baptism at Immaculate Conception Church in Gilbertville.

Following the completion of eighth grade, she became a freshman aspirant at Good Counsel, one year later. With the help of a summer course in senior English taught by a Franciscan sister in Waterloo, Iowa, she was able to complete four years of high school in three years. She entered the SSND candidature in the fall of 1943.

After five months, she received an assignment at her home parish. She returned to the candidature in June for summer school and then went back to Gilbertville to teach the same grades. After a few months, she was sent to St. Francis de Sales in St. Paul, Minnesota, to teach primary grades. She became an SSND novice in 1945, receiving the name of her youngest brother (and godchild), Gerald. She later returned to her baptismal name.

After first profession of vows in 1946, Sister Mary Gerald began her teaching and administration ministry with one year at St. Clara, Clara City, Minnesota. Assignments at St. Francis de Sales and St. Matthew, both in St. Paul, Minnesota, followed. She taught at SS. Peter & Paul, Springbrook, Iowa, (1952-54) and Sacred Heart, St. Paul, Minnesota (1954-59). She taught and was principal at St. Francis, Buffalo (1959-65) and St. Dominic, Northfield (1965-66), both in Minnesota. Following one year as a school supervisor for both SSND and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, she served as full-time administrator at Sacred Heart (1967-69). During her years of teaching and administration, she earned a BA in English from the College of St. Catherine (1952), and an MA in Education from the College of St. Thomas (1961), St. Paul, Minnesota.

In 1969, Sister Therese's ministry changed to pastoral ministry and adult education at St. Peter Parish, Forest Lake, Minnesota. Sister Therese established her Creative Christian Living Program. From 1972 through 2007, she directed retreats, conducted days of prayer and gave lectures throughout the United States. As technology improved, she offered the course in cassettes and videotapes. In 1998, she published the course in print. In 2007, Sister Therese retired from actively promoting Creative Christian Living.

Funeral services included a Prayer of Remembrance and a Funeral Liturgy on Monday, November 11, 2019, in Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel. She is survived by her brothers, Tony and Ted (Dolores); her sisters-in-law, Connie and Bernice Even; nieces and nephews; and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND associates. She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Rose (Mangrich) Even; her sisters Monica Even, SSND, and Mary Fischels; and her brothers, Cletus, Joseph, Norbert, Leonard and Gerald.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Resource Development, 320 East Ripa Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63125, or online at <https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/give>.

