



**School Sisters
of Notre Dame**
Central Pacific Province

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 15, 2017

Sister Audrey Herr, SSND
Principal, educator, university administrator

Chatawa, Miss. – Sister Audrey Herr, 96, died September 5, 2017. Born in St. Louis on February 23, 1921, she was the youngest of four children to Herman and Anna (Seibertz) Hoerr. A week after her birth, she was baptized and given the name Audrey Catherine. She writes that, “my mother was the unifying Catholic force in the family and made sure we were all baptized and attended Catholic elementary schools. I was enrolled at St. Francis de Sales School, conducted by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The most appealing aspects of this were recess and lunch periods because we could play ball. Athletics have always played a major role in my life, even at this early stage.”



She writes of her early contact with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, “I was greatly taken up with the sisters and resolved early on to become one of them. I made no secret of this lofty ambition and never received anything by encouragement from the sisters. This is quite remarkable because of my overly vivacious disposition and unhappy ability to disrupt a classroom.”

Sister Audrey’s autobiography tells her story:

“On August 29, 1930, when I was nine years of age, my mother died from complications of diabetes. I was devastated and my sister, Marie, 10 years my senior, became my second mother. She undertook the responsibility of my education and training. In 1934, I graduated from St. Francis de Sales and attended Rosati-Kain High School for two years. Because of unfortunate family circumstances, I dropped out of school for 18 months but still kept in touch with the sisters at Rosati. I never relinquished my desire to become a Notre Dame. Those kind sisters negotiated my acceptance into St. Mary of the Pines Academy, ideally situated in Chatawa, Mississippi. There among the beautiful pines, I spent two of the happiest and most productive years of my life, culminating in my graduation in June 1940. Never shall I forget the kindness and solicitude of S. Superior M. Charissia, who was a spiritual mother to me and strengthened my vocation by reason of spiritual talks, necessary admonitions and primarily by her good example.

On August 27, 1940 I received the white bonnet from S. Charissia in the Chatawa chapel. My candidature days were very happy and I was received on July 27, 1943 and given the name Mary Roderick. Profession of Vows followed in 1944.

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I spent the first 5 years teaching elementary grades. After receiving a bachelor's degree from LeClerc College in 1949, I spent the next 21 years as teacher and principal in secondary schools in Missouri, Iowa and Louisiana. After earning an M.A. in 1955 from St. Louis University, I particularly enjoyed teaching western civilization for Notre Dame College in Ripa during summer sessions. Then in 1970, my life took a most fortuitous turn. I was granted a year off to earn an M.A. in counseling from St. Louis University. The next 19 years were spent in administration on the collegiate and university levels at Marycrest College, Emerson College and the University of Southern California. These years were very special.

After spending 46 active years in the field of education, I retired to my beloved St. Mary of the Pines in 1990. By this time, all my siblings were deceased and I became very close to my extended family. I have the most loving nieces and nephews in the world!

I always felt that my life and future had somehow been saved when I came here as a student, and now my life would end here. I had come full circle! It is only fitting. Whatever I am or may have, I owe to the congregation!"

Sister Audrey Herr died on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. A service was held on Monday, September 11, 2017, at St. Teresa Church in Chatawa, Mississippi. She was buried in Chatawa, Mississippi. Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Retirement Fund, c/o Resource Development, PO Box 227275, Dallas, TX 75222-7275 or online at www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Partner/Donation.

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