



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sister Earl Mary Moores, SSND
April 9, 1937 – November 17, 2017



WILTON, Conn. - Sister Earl Mary Moores died peacefully on November 17, 2017, at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton, Conn. She was 80 years old and had been a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 60 years.

Born on April 9, 1937, in Glen Cove, New York, Merle Louise was baptized a few months later at St. Patrick Church, Glen Cove. Her father, Earl had been born in Buffalo, New York and her mother, Sophie Baczewski, in Glen Cove. Eventually Merle would be the oldest of eight children, seven girls and one boy. She began first grade in 1943 at Landing Public School where she stayed until the sixth grade. She then transferred to St. Patrick Grammar School, taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, whom she had first met as a second grader preparing to make her First Communion.

During the seventh grade, Merle began to think about becoming a School Sister of Notre Dame and spent her high school years at the SSND Aspiranture in Fort Lee, New Jersey. When at home during the summer, she worked at Glen Cove Community Hospital to help her parents support their growing family.

Merle received the bonnet on August 29, 1955 and entered the candidature in Baltimore. She studied that first year at Notre Dame Teacher Training School and then, on July 13, 1956, entered the novitiate, receiving the name Earl Mary. While she was a novice, Sister Earl Mary's sister Virginia was in the candidature and a new baby sister named Kate was born into the family.

During 1957-1958 Sister Earl Mary studied at Notre Dame of Maryland. She then taught at St. Benedict School in Baltimore (1958-64); St. Boniface, Philadelphia (1964-66); St. Lawrence, Sayville, Long Island (1966-78). For the next 38 years (1978-2016) Sister Earl Mary lived at St. Matthias Convent in Ridgewood, New York, and taught history in the school.

After retiring as a full time history teacher at St. Matthias in 2012, Sister Earl Mary continued to work for peace and justice, a theme of her teaching and ministry, by volunteering at the SSND Educational Center in Woodhaven, N.Y. She also was a regular volunteer at St. Matthias Lunch Program for the Homeless.

On June 14, 2016, St. Matthias School and Parish Community honored Sister Earl Mary, along with all the sisters who taught generations of their children since 1910. The gathering was also a farewell for the five sisters living at St. Matthias who were moving to Villa Notre Dame in Wilton.

After moving to the Villa on August 30, 2016, Sister Earl Mary liked to help where needed and could often be seen distributing mail and decorating the dining rooms. Her community members were gifted by her quiet presence and commitment to prayer.

During the autumn days of this October, Sister Earl Mary was admitted to Norwalk Hospital. That stay was followed by a move to Lourdes Health Care Center. It was while at Lourdes, surrounded by her SSND sisters, that she peacefully said her final farewell on November 17, 2017.

The wake service for Sister Earl Mary was held on Monday, November 20. Sister Marie Justine Nutz led the Villa Notre Dame community, several family members, and friends in prayer and sharing. That Sister Earl Mary was loved by the children, faculty and parents of St. Matthias School was evident from the "Prayer Chain" made by the children that was draped along the wall leading to the chapel.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, November 21, in the chapel of Villa Notre Dame. The Mass was celebrated by the VND chaplain, Rev. Thomas Elliott, C.S.C. Deacon John Sands, a longtime friend of Sister Earl Mary from St. Matthias was the homilist. He spoke movingly of Sister Earl Mary's being a model for us as we follow her to our eternal life with God. In her office book Earl Mary wrote, "I am safe, known intimately, chosen, treasured, and empowered by my God."

Sister Earl Mary is survived by her sisters and their husbands: Virginia and Carmine Macedonio, Lorraine and Robert Manning, Mary and Michael Antanaitis, Anne and Edward Klein, her brother Joseph and Maria Moores, and her sister Elizabeth Peters.

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

