



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Sister Catherine Goodell, SSND**  
**January 30, 1919 – July 11, 2018**



**Wilton, Conn.** – Sister Catherine Goodell, 99, died early in the morning on July 11, comforted by loving sisters and staff. She was a vowed member of the School sisters of Notre Dame for 79 years.

Catherine was born on January 30, 1919, in Roxbury, Mass., and baptized on February 23, in St. Benedict Church in Somerville.

Catherine attended Wilson Public School in Detroit and then St. Gabriel’s Catholic School, where at the age of seven she received First Communion, with Confirmation following a few weeks later. Dominican Sisters were her teachers there. When she was a fourth grader, the family moved to Chicago, and a year later she enrolled in St. Cyril’s School and met the Sisters of Loretto. “It was here, in the sixth grade, that I first thought I would like to be a sister.”

Catherine graduated from Mission Grammar and Mission High Schools in 1932 and 1936. She chose the Commercial Course in high school “thinking perhaps I would go to work when I left school and also trying to convince myself that I really did not want to be a sister.” At the usual private interview with Principal Sister Cataldus, Catherine was in a dilemma, knowing one of the questions would be on her plans for the future. She first explained the need to go to work because of the Depression, but really knowing it was a “yes” to being a sister. In two weeks she returned to Sister Cataldus with her answer and her mother’s consent.

On August 28, 1936, Catherine received the bonnet with two companions in the high school convent chapel, and the next morning journeyed to the Motherhouse on Aisquith Street in Baltimore. For two years she lived there as a candidate “trying to observe

faithfully our rules, but there have been times, sorry to say, when I could have done better.” She also wrote with gratitude,

*It is impossible to even try to thank everybody for the many, many kindnesses and especially for the guidance of experienced hands. Sister Myles and Sister Fermina will ever have a place in my prayers that God may spare them long in his service. Likewise the House Sisters who work unceasingly for all.*

On entering the novitiate, Catherine became Sister Mary Ursuline and made first profession on July 27, 1939. Saint Boniface, Philadelphia was her first mission, where she taught 75 fourth graders until 1944, when she went to St. Lawrence, Sayville, N.Y. for five more years. In 1945 she made final profession.

From 1949 to 1961, Sister Ursuline was in the heart of “Baptist Country” at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, a de-activated Army base, a new mission of the Baltimore province co-founded by Sisters Rosemary Delaney, Francis Mensik, and Ursuline. Catherine taught triple grades six, seven and eight, as well as being principal and superior. Her smile and loving disposition won the hearts of the people. Some left their Baptist Church and founded their own church, so they could send their children to Catholic school.

Catherine spent the years 1961 to 1978 teaching mainly business subjects at St. Michael Commercial High and Archbishop Keough High School in Baltimore, Bishop Neumann Business School in Philadelphia, and St. Peter High in Cambridge, Mass.

After 30 years there at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Dover, N.H. as teacher and assistant librarian, in 2008, Catherine received the *Lux in Tenebris Award*, which recognizes members of the St. Thomas community who live their lives as examples of what it means to be a light in darkness. It was the 70th year of her profession.

Many family members attended the wake service on the evening of July 13. Present also were Charlie George and former Principal Jeffrey Quinn from Dover. Both spoke fondly of Catherine. Current Principal Kevin Collins was represented by his wife Kate. The Liturgy of Christian Burial on July 14 was presided over by Father Paul Sankar from the local parish. Burial followed at St. Mary Cemetery, Bethel, Conn.

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](http://www.amssnd.org)