

August 7, 2018

Sister Mary Butzer, SSND
Educator, musician, pastoral care worker

Mankato, Minnesota – Sister Mary Butzer, died Monday, July 9, 2018, in St. Paul. She was 84, and a former educator, musician and pastoral care worker.

The funeral Mass was celebrated July 18 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel in Mankato, Minnesota. Burial was at Our Lady of Good Counsel Cemetery.

Sister Mary was born in Mankato, Minnesota. She entered the congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1952 and professed first vows in 1954.

In 1962, she earned a B.A. in education from St. Catherine's College, an M.Ed. from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, in 1973, and an M.A. in pastoral skills from Seattle University in 1994.

Sister Mary was a teacher for 35 years. She taught primary and middle school students at Holy Childhood, St. Paul; Crucifixion, La Crescent, Minnesota; St. Francis De Sales, St. Paul; St. John the Baptist, Dayton, Minnesota; St. Mary, Madelia, Minnesota; St. Peter, Canby, Minnesota; St. Benedict, Strasburg, North Dakota; St. Joseph-St. John, Mankato, Minnesota; St. Stanislaus, St. Paul; SS. Peter & Paul, Mankato; and St. Casimir, St. Paul. With the exception of her first school, she was also responsible for the music in the school and/or parish.

In 1991, Sister Mary became a member of the pastoral team at Good Counsel's St. Joseph Hall Health Care and served as organist for Good Counsel. From 1995-1997, she served as a pastoral associate and CCD coordinator for St. Joseph, Montevideo, Minnesota. She served as a parish minister with the Delano, Minnesota, Catholic community from 1997-2004.

Sister Mary retired from active ministry in 2004 and spent one year at the SSND folk art house in Oakdale, Minnesota. She then moved to Graham Place in St. Paul in 2005.

Sister Mary is survived by her brothers, Paul, Karl, Luke, Stephen and Thomas; her sisters, Susan Henning and Gretchen Jewison; and several nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Resource Development, 170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato, MN 56001 or online at <https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/give>.

