

September 5, 2018

**Sister Mary Joan Trombley, SSND**  
**Educator, technician, cook**

**Mankato, Minnesota** – Sister Mary Joan (formerly Sylvester) Trombley, died at Our Lady of Good Counsel, on Saturday, August 11, 2018. She was 87 and a former educator, technician and cook.

The funeral Mass was celebrated August 17 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel, Mankato, Minnesota. Burial was in the Our Lady of Good Counsel Cemetery.

Sister Mary Jo was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. She entered the congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1949. In 1950, she was missioned to St. Peter School in Hokah, Minnesota, to teach third and fourth grade. She professed first vows in 1952. In 1960, she earned a B.A. degree from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee.

After first profession, Sister Mary Jo was missioned to St. Agnes School, St. Paul, Minnesota, where she taught fourth grade and assisted with sacristy work. Beginning in 1955, she taught third, fourth and fifth grade at St. Paul, Comfrey, Minnesota. In addition to teaching, she was responsible for the sacristy and servers at St. Paul. From 1957 through 1963, she taught intermediate grades at St. Cyril and Methodius, Minneapolis; St. Matthew, St. Paul, Minnesota; St. Mary, Marystown, Minnesota; Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Paul, Minnesota; and Christ the King, Omak, Washington. Sister Mary Jo was sent to Guatemala in 1963, first to learn Spanish and then to begin her teaching ministry in Patzun in January 1964. She helped coordinate school activities and taught English and religion. She, along with Sister Rose Schwab (formerly Conrad), introduced a new teaching method that helped develop critical thinking skills. In January 1968, Sister Mary Jo returned to Minnesota, teaching intermediate and junior high grades at St. Agnes, St. Matthew and Holy Childhood, all in St. Paul; St. Peter, Hokah; and Fitzgerald and Loyola, Mankato. She became part of the maintenance staff at Our Lady of Good Counsel in 1978 and served as part of the kitchen staff from 1984 until 1989. She was called to be the cook for the SSND Generalate in Rome from 1989 to 1991. After she returned from Rome, Sister Mary Jo became the audio-visual specialist at Our Lady of Good Counsel. She semi-retired in 2006 but continued to be active in several capacities.

She is survived by her brother, John (Arlene), her sister, Marlene (Dawayne) Novak, her sister-in-law, Mary Trombley and 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>.

