

December 19, 2018

Sister Irene (Leon Marie) Feltz, SSND
Teacher, missionary, archivist

Mankato, Minnesota – Sister Irene (formerly Leon Marie) Feltz, died at Notre Dame Health Care, Mankato, Minnesota on Saturday, December 15, 2018. She was 91 and a former teacher, missionary and archivist.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on December 20 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel. Burial was in Our Lady of Good Counsel Cemetery.

Sister Irene was born in Winona, Minnesota. In 1949, she graduated from the College of St. Teresa in Winona, Minnesota, with majors in Latin and English.

She entered the SSND candidature in Mankato, Minnesota, that same year. As a novitiate, she was given the name Sister Leon Marie, a combination of her parents' names. She later returned to her baptismal name. She professed first vows in 1951. During her years of teaching, Sister Irene earned two masters' degrees, one in education from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota (1953), and the other in English and Spanish from the University of Notre Dame (1966).

For the next thirty years, Sister Irene taught mostly Latin and Spanish, in Catholic high schools: St. Agnes, St. Paul, Minnesota (1954-66; 1979-81); St. Michael, St. Michael, Minnesota (1951-54; 1966-68); Trinity, Dickinson, North Dakota (1968-78); Loyola, Mankato, Minnesota (1978-79); and Cretin, St. Paul, Minnesota (1981-83). In 1983, she began teaching English in Patzun, Guatemala. After four years in Guatemala, she returned to Our Lady of Good Counsel in 1987. She then received an invitation to give service at the SSND Generalate in Rome. Sister Irene lived and worked in Rome from 1988 through 1992. Returning to the U.S. in 1992, Sister Irene was appointed archivist for the province, a position she held until 2006. In 2006-07, she accompanied Sister Sue Von Bank, who was working with Dr. Snowden and the Nun Study. She taught English in Hungary in 2010-11. In between, she volunteered in the archives, served as a receptionist and took an active part in liturgical services.

She is survived by her sister Dorothy Manhart, nieces and nephews, and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND associates. She was preceded in death by her parents Leon and Mary (Skorlinski) Feltz; sisters Modesta (Maud) Kiesling, Helen Grulkowski, Esther Fehrman and Marion Wamhoff; and her brothers Edmund, Henry, Joseph, Albert and Leon.

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>.

