

November 25, 2019

Sister Mary Helen Hotze
Teacher, Provincial Councilor, Spiritual Director

St. Louis, Missouri – Sister Mary Helen, formerly Mary Angele, Hotze, 96, passed away peacefully on All Saints Day, November 1, 2019, at Anna House, The Sarah Community, in Bridgeton, Missouri. In her SSND ministry, she served as a Teacher, Provincial Councilor, and Spiritual Director.

The wake service was held at The Sarah Community and Theresa Center on November 4, 2019. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with Rev. Robert McAleer of Fort Madison, Iowa, as presider. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery.



Mary Helen completed her elementary education at St. John School, Leopold and graduated from Notre Dame High School, St. Louis, as an Aspirant. She entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa on August 26, 1942. She was received into the novitiate on July 26, 1944, and given the name Mary Angele. She pronounced first vows on July 27, 1945, and final vows on July 27, 1951.

Sister Mary Helen received a bachelor's degree in English from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro in 1951; a master's degree in Theology from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, in 1959; a master's degree in Philosophy from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1963; a Doctorate in Theology in Spirituality from Lumen Vitae, Brussels, Belgium, in 1965.

She taught high school students for 14 years at St. Joseph High School, Conway, Arkansas, and St. Peter High School, St. Charles, Missouri, prior to teaching at the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis. In 1964, she was granted a year of study at Lumen Vitae, an International Catechetical Center in Brussels, Belgium. Returning to the United States, she taught at Notre Dame College until its closure in 1977.

Sister Mary Helen then became a member of the SSND Retreat Team at Notre Dame Hall, St. Louis, Missouri, giving retreats and spiritual direction to many. In 1979, she was elected to the provincial council of the former St. Louis Province. After two terms of service, she became a pastoral minister at St. Mary Parish, Fort Madison, Iowa

In November 2001, Sister Mary Helen received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross (Cross for the Church and Pontiff). This honor is given to Catholics for extraordinary service to the church. As a teacher at Notre Dame

College, Sister Mary Helen introduced many to the developments in theology following Vatican II. As a retreat and spiritual director, she walked with many in their journey to God and neighbor.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Resource Development, 320 East Ripa Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63125, or online at <https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/give>.