

November 25, 2019

Sister Mary Odile Poliquin
Teacher, principal, baker

St. Louis, Missouri – Sister Mary Odile Poliquin, 89, passed away peacefully at Anna House, The Sarah Community in Bridgeton, Missouri, on October 23, 2019. In her SSND ministry, she served as a teacher, principal, and baker.

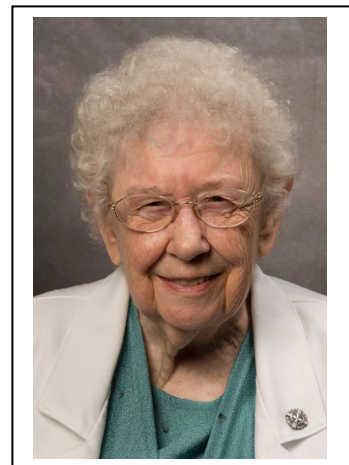
The wake service was held at The Sarah Community and Theresa Center on October 28, 2019. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with Rev. Robert Leibrecht presiding. Interment was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery.

After graduation from high school, Laura entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa on September 1, 1948. During her second year of candidature, she was missioned to St. Gerard Majella Grade School in San Antonio, Texas, to teach second grade. She was received into the novitiate on August 1, 1950, and given the name Mary Odile. She had asked for this name since it had been in the Poliquin family for generations. She professed first vows on August 2, 1951, and final vows on August 2, 1957. She received a bachelor's degree in English from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1964.

As a newly professed, Sister Odile was missioned to St. Jude Academy, San Diego, California. Two years later, she was transferred to St. Joseph, Holtville, California. At these two schools, most of the children did not speak English when they came to school and Sister Odile did not speak Spanish. Somehow, the children learned to read, write and speak English. Returning to the Midwest, she was missioned to St. Agatha, New Athens, Illinois; St. John, Burlington, Iowa; St. Michael, Hastings, Nebraska; St. Engelbert, St. Louis, Missouri; Aquinas-East in Fort Madison, Iowa. She was also principal at St. Michael in Hastings.

After 39 years of teaching primary children, Sister Odile spent a semester working in the dining room at Villa Gesu in St. Louis, and a semester studying at the University of Notre Dame, learning about parish ministry. In 1991, she returned to her home parish in Mattoon, Illinois, as the director of religious education. She closed the mission in 1998 and came back to St. Louis to do community service. She offered to bake and with some lessons from her sister who owned the "O and K Bakery" near Sancta Maria in Ripa, she began baking for the 100 sisters living there. In 2007, Sister Odile retired to Veronica House and in 2015, to Anna House.

Attending the funeral services were her sisters, Mary Werner of Frontenac, Missouri; Odile Lampe of Ellisville, Missouri and Rita Reilley of Seattle, Washington; her brother, Michael Poliquin of St. Peters, Missouri;



nieces, nephews and their families; classmates; friends and SSND. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Thomas.

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>.