



Birth
May 23, 1923

Baptism
June 19, 1923

Profession
July 20, 1942

Death
December 29, 2012

Burial
Our Lady of
Good Counsel Cemetery
Mankato, Minnesota

*Precious and blessed is
the death of the faithful
before God... for
they die in union with
their dear Jesus, in the
grace of God, in peace.*

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
Letter 11, September 10, 1831

In Loving Memory

Sister Mayette Hughes, SSND

Sister Mayette Hughes, 89, died Saturday, December 29, 2012, in Notre Dame Health Care Center, Our Lady of Good Counsel Campus, Mankato, Minnesota. A 2012 Gold and Ruby Jubilarian, she had been in declining health for some time, but her condition rapidly deteriorated the day before her death.

Sister Mayette was born on May 23, 1923, in Ellsworth, Wisconsin, and baptized Mary Catherine at St. Francis Church, Ellsworth, on June 19. She was called Mayette because of her birth in May. As a young child, Mayette moved with her family to Red Wing, Minnesota. She started first grade at St. Joseph School in Red Wing and was taught by School Sisters of Notre Dame until she graduated from eighth grade in 1939.

In her autobiography, Sister Mayette recounted her vocation story: "I remember a time when speaking with some non-Catholic friends that I said I would never do such a thing as to lock myself up in a convent. However, God's ways are not our ways, for there came a time during a home visit of my father's sister, Sister M. Idelle, OSB, that I actually felt a desire to do just what I said I would never do. The desire kept growing until I was fully convinced that God was favoring me with His call. The inspiring example of the sisters who taught me helped me greatly to make my decision. I am especially grateful to Sister M. Lucilla [Haider], my seventh and eighth grade teacher. She made it possible for me to attend the ceremonies of Reception and Profession during the summer of 1939. This made my decision to enter Notre Dame final."

Mayette entered the SSND candidature in Mankato in August, 1939. She spent her second year as a candidate helping with household duties at St. Matthew Convent, St. Paul. On her Reception day, she was given her own name, Mayette, as her religious name. Following profession of vows in 1942, she spent two months at St. Agnes Convent in St. Paul and then returned to the motherhouse for the rest of the year. The following August, she was transferred to St. John the Baptist Convent, Mankato.

In 1947, Sister Mayette returned to Good Counsel Hill, where for the next 15 years, she was in charge of the boarders' serving room at Good Counsel Academy. Former boarders still talk about Sister Mayette's loving presence there. The girls took turns helping Sister Mayette with the various tasks connected with serving meals. She taught them how to set tables correctly and run the large dishwasher – and she often provided a treat for those who helped her. During the summers, she took care of the serving room for sisters' and lay women's retreats. Two of her recipes were published in the 1947 *Notre Dame Centenary Cookbook*: Ginger Ale Appetizer and Root Beer Cocktail.

In 1962, Sister Mayette began a series of four one-year assignments: SS. Peter & Paul, New Hradec, North Dakota; St. Andrew, St. Paul; St. Pius, St. Pius, North Dakota; and St. Matthew, St. Paul. In the two North Dakota

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Mayette Hughes



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missions, she also supervised boarders. In May, 1965, Sister Mayette was part of a new adventure as she and Sister Mary Clement Kreye became the initial staff at the sisters' new vacation home, Bodawan Lodge, near Park Rapids, Minnesota. Sister Mayette cooked for the many groups of sisters who visited Bodawan that first summer.

Sister Mayette teamed with five other sisters to form the first SSND staff at Grace High School, Fridley, in 1966. During her four years at Grace, Sister Mayette ran the school bookstore, and was noted for her friendly ways. In 1970, a community service opportunity opened at the SSND Generalate in Rome. In her letter of recommendation for Sister Mayette, Sister Margareta, the Provincial Leader, wrote, "Though Sister is a fine cook, she is interested in more than cooking. Because she can drive and because she relates well with high school students, we feel she could be a real help in the Generalate this year." Sister Mayette worked with resident students at the Generalate from August 1970 until January 1972.

Following a year of community service at Good Counsel Academy, Sister Mayette again found a new ministry. She became the house mother at Cabrini Residence in Winona, a home sponsored by Catholic Charities for unwed pregnant girls. Sister Mayette cooked for the girls and assigned housekeeping tasks. Most importantly, she was patient with them and taught them to respect each other. When it was time for birth, Sister Mayette accompanied the mother-to-be to the hospital and stayed with her as long as needed. She remained at Cabrini until 1979, when she moved to St. Stanislaus Convent, St. Paul. Initially a home-service sister, she studied in the Sisters Care program, and eventually became pastoral minister in the parish, where her loving outreach, especially to the elderly and infirm, was greatly appreciated. In 1989, Sister Mayette answered another call to begin anew and joined five other SSNDs in ministry at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Hastings. Here she continued her outreach to the elderly and infirm. She worked as a home-health aide, and cleaned homes of those unable to perform this task themselves. As she eased into retirement, she volunteered at Regina Medical Center in Hastings.

After many years of loving service to God's people wherever she was called, Sister Mayette came to Good Counsel in 2000. In her variety of ministries, she truly lived out the words from the Gospel, "As often as you did it for one of these, you did it for me."

The funeral Mass for Sister Mayette, with Father Ted Hottinger, S.J., as presider, was held Thursday, January 3, in Good Counsel Chapel. She is survived by nieces and nephews and their families. She was preceded in death by her parents, Alex and Anna (Marks) Hughes, and her brothers, Le Roy (Fritz) and James.

By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND