

In Loving Memory

Sister Ann [Robert Ann] Muckerman, SSND



Birth
November 1, 1929

Baptism
November 10, 1929

Profession
July 29, 1950

Death
September 11, 2012

Sister Ann
donated her body to
St. Louis University
School of Medicine.

*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

On the feast of All Saints, November 1, 1929, the Muckerman family was expecting the arrival of Robert Joseph but was greatly surprised when a little girl was born to Edna [Hartmann] and Oliver Muckerman. On November 10, she was baptized at St. Michael, Shrewsbury, Mo. and named Betty Ann. She was the youngest of three: her older brother, Norman, was ordained a priest in the Redemptorist community; her older sister, Rosemary [Alphonse], was professed as a School Sister of Notre Dame.

Betty attended St. Michael Grade School and St. Alphonsus [Rock] High School, both staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She wanted to follow her sister into religious life but had serious questions about the care of her parents. She was supposed to stay and keep the “home fires” burning. However, her parents generously gave her permission to enter the candidature at Ripa on August 27, 1947. During her second year, she taught sixth grade at St. Liborius, St. Louis, Mo. She was received into the novitiate on July 28, 1949, and given the name Robert Ann – the family finally had their Robert! Profession of first vows was on July 29, 1950, and final vows on July 29, 1956.

Sister Ann received a bachelor of arts degree in history and geography from Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1956; a master of arts degree in geography from St. Louis University in 1961; and a doctorate in private school administration from the University of San Francisco in 1981.

Her first seven years after profession were spent in teaching elementary children at Blessed Sacrament, Belleville, Ill.; Immaculate Conception, Liberty, Texas; and St. Gabriel, St. Louis, Mo. For ten years, she taught secondary students at Redemptorist High School, New Orleans, La. and St. Gerard High School, San Antonio, Texas. She was then assigned to Redemptorist Senior High School in Baton Rouge, La. as principal for four years. During these years, the Dallas province was formed and she became a member of it.

In 1971, Sister Ann’s life took a different turn. She was an education consultant for one year for the Diocese of Dallas; director of schools for the Diocese of Orlando, Fla. for three years; associate superintendent for the Diocese of Little Rock, Ark. for one year; superintendent for the Diocese of Tucson, Ariz. for two years; superintendent for the Diocese of San Bernardino, Calif. for ten years. When Sister Ann was superintendent of the San Bernardino diocese, she was nominated for Superintendent of the Year. Following a listing of her accomplishments, the nomination statement read: “Sister Ann personifies the Catholic School leader. She is a woman of faith, a compassionate and generous leader, who cares for Catholic education and each person within the system.”

After these assignments, she returned to the St. Louis area to spend time with her siblings in their “golden years.” She was principal at St. John elementary school, Imperial, Mo. for five years.

continued

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**School Sisters
of Notre Dame**
Central Pacific Province

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
THROUGH EDUCATION

Sister Ann had been “in charge” for 31 years, so she volunteered at Notre Dame Travel, St. Louis, Mo. to do clerical work. Two months later, she was asked by the advisory board to manage the agency. Small travel agencies would not remain profitable, so in 2000, contact was made with a gentleman who was willing to purchase the agency. She remained with the travel agency for the transition. She was then employed as a secretary in the development division of the Salvation Army. She remained in this position for five years. In January 2006, she petitioned to return to the St. Louis Province. Her sister had died and her brother was in poor health. From 2006-2009, she worked two days a week as a staff member of the circulation department at Liguori Publications and volunteered one day a week at Maria Center. Resigning from the position at Liguori Publications, she volunteered to work two days a week at Maria Center in the development office for the District/Province of Africa.

In May 2012, she was diagnosed with Stage 4 gastric cancer. Surgery indicated that it was terminal. On September 5, Sister Ann was anointed and sisters began to keep vigil with her. She died peacefully in Theresa Center infirmary on September 11, 2012, at 9:40 p.m. with a sister praying at her bedside. She donated her body to St. Louis University School of Medicine.

The memorial Mass was celebrated on September 26, 2012, at the Theresa Center chapel. Rev. John Seper, pastor of Assumption Parish [Sister Ann’s former parish] and Rev. Ted Lawson, CSsR, rector of Liguori Health Center presided. Cousins, Redemptorist priests, parishioners from Assumption Parish, friends and SSNDs attended the service.

During her years in St. Louis, Sister Ann was noted for her enjoyment in entertaining guests and many in attendance had relished her delicious meals. She often visited sisters at St. Anthony’s Medical Center and spent many hours keeping vigil with sisters at The Sarah Community. She was an avid walker and often exercised at the nearby YMCA. She never gave up and continued to come to assist in the development office for the Province of Africa until shortly before her death.

Sister Ann was convinced that God always directed her footsteps and put people in her path when and where she needed them. Family, friends, educational and job opportunities, awards, travel, and numerous experiences resulted in a deeper appreciation of her vocation and her SSND community. She made a difference in the educational and spiritual formation of young people and adults with and for whom she worked. In each place she served, she left the educational system and the Church a better place.

May she now receive fullness of life with God and a warm welcome from her family and the SSNDs who have preceded her into eternal life!

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND