



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 10, 2011

**Sister Mary Benet Begusch, SSND
Educator**

Elm Grove, Wis. – School Sister of Notre Dame Mary Benet Begusch died on Friday, October 7, 2011, at Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital, Oconomowoc, Wis. following a car accident in Chenequa, Wis. She was 86.

Sister Mary Benet Begusch was born in Port Washington, Wis. She entered the congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1942 from St. Mary Parish in Port Washington, Wis. She professed first vows in 1945. She earned a bachelor's degree in English in 1956 from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee.



Sister Mary Benet served as an educator in Catholic schools for 33 years. Her first teaching position was at St. Michael, Milwaukee, 1945-47. In addition, she taught at St. Joseph, Oconto, Wis., 1947-63; St. George, Kenosha, Wis., 1963-65; St. Henry, Watertown, Wis. 1965-76; and her final classroom post was at St. Nicholas, Milwaukee, 1976-78. The second phase of her ministry involved supporting retreat ministries for the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She served as housekeeper for the Notre Dame of the Lake Retreat and Renewal Center, Mequon, Wis., 1978-82. She followed this with a stint of 23 years as housekeeper, laundress and mender, gardener, as well as supervisor to teen workers for TYME OUT Youth Ministry and Retreat Center at all of its locations: Mequon, St. Francis, Pewaukee and Stonebank. She retired in 2007 but continued her ministry through many daily tasks, gardening, reading and taking extra time for prayer.

Sister Mary Benet was preceded in death by her parents, Catherine and August Begusch Jr., and her sister, Ruth Schowalter. She is survived by her sister, Betty Buser of Canon, Colo. and her brother-in-law, Bob Schowalter of Saukville, Wis., many nieces and nephews and the SSND Community. Visitation and a wake service were held on October 13, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at The Holy Family Chapel, Notre Dame of Elm Grove.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Retirement Fund, c/o SSND Mission Advancement Office, 13105 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122-2291.

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