



SISTER MARCIA BURQUE, SSND

Sister Marcia Burque, 79, died Saturday, October 15, 2011, in Notre Dame Health Care, Good Counsel Campus, Mankato, Minnesota. In her SSND ministry, she served as elementary teacher and principal, music teacher, parish liturgist, director of religious education, and piano teacher.

A leap-year baby, born in St. Paul on February 29, 1932, Sister Marcia was baptized Regina Diane, and known as Diane to friends and family. She was taught by Sisters of St. Joseph (CSJ) for grades 2-8 and 11-12; SSNDs were her teachers for grades 9-10.

She entered the candidature on August 28, 1949, and was received into the novitiate on July 16, 1951, with the name Sister Mary Marcia. On July 17, 1952, she pronounced first vows – and would have celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Sister Marcia began her education ministry, teaching middle grades at St. Joseph, Montevideo (1952-56). She continued this ministry at St. Nicholas, New Market (1956-63); St. Andrew, St. Paul (1963-65); St. Mary, Madelia, where she was also principal (1965-67); St. Joseph, Montevideo, again as principal (1967-69); New Ulm Area Catholic School (1969-72); and St. Bartholomew, Wayzata (1972-75). During this time, she completed college work at Viterbo in La Crosse, earning a degree in education. She also took master's level classes in administration, religious studies, music and liturgy at several universities. In 1975, Sister Marcia discontinued teaching and served for one year as director of liturgical music at Holy Spirit Parish, St. Cloud. From 1976 until 1981, she was director of liturgy and music and worked in parish ministry at St. Catherine's, Redwood Falls. She lived at St. Michael, Morgan, at that time, and also taught intermediate math in the school there. She felt the pull of education, and became a director of religious education, first at St. Peter, Forest Lake (1981-85) and then at Epiphany, Coon Rapids (1985-89).

While at Coon Rapids, she learned that a parishioner was giving piano lessons and had more students than she could handle. Sister Marcia agreed to take one student. Knowing she would need updating to become a certified piano teacher, she entered the Piano Pedagogy Program at St. Catherine's College, St. Paul. At this time, she returned to classroom teaching at Holy Childhood (1989-2000), where she was able to continue her classes at St. Catherine. In her later years at Holy Childhood, she taught classroom music and gave piano lessons through K & S Conservatory, St. Paul.

In June 2000, Sister Marcia moved to Good Counsel and continued her piano lesson ministry on the Hill. She also served for five years as Learning Center secretary. At the time of her death, she was still active as the Hill's piano teacher.

Sister Marcia wrote in her 2010 autobiography, "Throughout my life I have had many 'loves' – Jesus, my God, my family, the many people I worked with and served, my SSND community, music, teaching and the joys of nature." She continued, "I continuously thank God for the multi-colored ways in which God has blessed my life. The bright colors of joy, the purples and blacks of pain and sorrow. Yet the Divine Weaver uses each color to produce a unique and beautiful pattern that has been mine and is ME."

She is survived by her brother Verne and his wife Phyllis, her nephews Christopher (Jill) and Michael (Lindsay), and her niece Michelle (Adam) Sklader. She was preceded in death by her parents, Napoleon and Christine Burque, and two brothers, Reginald and Douglas.