



**School Sisters
of Notre Dame**
Atlantic-Midwest Province

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 26, 2012

**Sister Mary Elizabeth Ryan, SSND,
longtime educator, dies at 91**

WILTON, Conn. – Sister Mary Elizabeth Ryan, an educator in Catholic schools from New York to Florida for more than 60 years, died of congestive heart failure and pneumonia on Jan. 21 at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton, Conn. She was 91 and had been a professed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 71 years.



Mary Elizabeth Ryan was born on May 10, 1920, in Boston, Mass., the first of seven children, to Patrick Ryan and Elizabeth (Fitzgerald) Ryan, both natives of Ireland. She graduated from Mission Church High School in Boston in 1937 and later that summer entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was given the religious name Mary Leontia and made her first vows in July 1940.

Sister's first teaching assignment was at St. Joseph School in Manhattan (1940-46). She went on to teach for six years at Holy Family School in Rochester, N.Y. (1946-54). After earning a bachelor's degree in education in 1954 from Nazareth College in Rochester, she was assigned to St. Peter the Apostle School in Philadelphia, where she taught for 15 years (1954-69). In 1969 she was named principal of Visitation School in Miami, Fla., and served there for 12 years.

In 1981 Sister Mary Elizabeth joined the faculty of St. Catherine of Siena School in Trumbull, Conn., where she would remain for 20 years. Even after retiring from full-time teaching, she continued at Catherine of Siena, offering community service there. She moved to Villa Notre Dame, a residence of retired sisters of the Atlantic-Midwest Province, in Wilton in 2001.

Sister Mary Elizabeth is survived by two sisters, Louise Ryan Lynch of South Yarmouth, Mass., and Sister Patricia Ryan, also a School Sister of Notre Dame, of Wilton.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic-Midwest Province, c/o Mission Advancement Office, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, CT 06897.

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