

Sister Philip Neri Saller, CSA

Sister Philip Neri (Hilda) Saller, CSA, died peacefully on January 6, 2013, at St. Francis Home in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where she resided since December 2012.

Hilda was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, on January 15, 1918, the third of eight children born to Joseph and Agnes McTamany Saller. Having completed high school at Altoona Catholic High School, she entered St. Agnes Convent in June 1936. She professed vows in the congregation as Sister Philip Neri on August 15, 1939. She attended newly-founded Marian College from 1936-1945, earning a B.S. in Education. Her further degrees included a B.S. in Science from Marquette University and an M.S. in Biology from De Paul University, Chicago. Always dedicated to enhancing her knowledge in preparation for teaching, Sister was awarded National Science Foundation Grants which she used to pursue courses in chemistry, physics, and astronomy during ten years of post-graduate study.



Sister Philip Neri taught in Catholic elementary schools from 1939-1952 in Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The primary focus of her teaching ministry from 1952-1979 was as a science teacher in the secondary schools of the congregation: Immaculate Conception, Elmhurst, Illinois; Beloit Catholic High, Beloit, Wisconsin; and Sacred Heart High School, Yonkers, New York. Alumni have long-remembered the influence of Sister Philip Neri and remained in touch with her. From 1967-1972, Sister was a faculty member at Marian College; she later served there in the library as an A-V coordinator and in the archives. She also shared her gifts and presence during several years of service in the Nicaraguan missions, including Puerto Cabezas and Waspam. She gave short-term service at the Service Center in Mobile, Alabama, at St. Francis School in Lumberton, New Mexico, and at the Desert House of Prayer in Cortaro, Arizona.

Preceding Sister Philip Neri in death were her sister, Sister Vianney Saller, CSA, and her brothers Hugh, Robert, John, Francis, James, and Joseph Saller.

She is survived by two sisters-in-law, a number of nieces and nephews, and the Sisters of St. Agnes, with whom she lived, prayed, and ministered.

Visitation: for Sr. Philip Neri Saller is Thursday, January 10, 2013, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., at Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett St, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. A Prayer Service will follow there at 11.00 a.m. on January 10, 2013.

Services: The Mass of Christian Burial is on Thursday, January 10, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett St., Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, with Father Ken Smits, OFM Cap, presiding. Burial will be at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to the Sisters of St. Agnes Development Office, 320 County Road K, Fond du Lac, WI 54937

The Sisters of St. Agnes are grateful to the nurses and staff of Nazareth Court and Center and St. Francis Home, as well as to the staff of Hospice Hope, for their care of Sister Philip Neri during her last years.