

## **Sister Virginia Murphy, CSA**

Sister Virginia Murphy, CSA, formerly known as Sister Patrick, died peacefully on September 19, 2015, at St. Francis Home, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Virginia was born in New York City, New York, on December 30, 1930, to John Joseph Murphy and Ethel Mae La Belle Murphy. There were four boys and four girls in the family of which she was the oldest. Having entered St. Agnes Convent in July 1946, Virginia made her first profession of vows in the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Agnes on November 11, 1950, as Sister Patrick. She received a B.S. in Education from Marian College of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, an M.S. in Education Administration from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, and an M.A. in Library and Information Science from Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois. In addition, Sister Virginia continued to update her education through the years at a number of higher education institutions.



She was a grade school teacher for 31 years, and she also served as principal for 12 of those years in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Indiana. From 1981 to 1995, Sister was the Director of Libraries at Marian College, Fond du Lac. In 1995 Sister Virginia was appointed the Local Coordinator for the sisters who resided at Nazareth Heights Infirmary. She was dedicated to forming community with the sisters there and was a caring presence among them. When the residents of Nazareth Heights moved to the newly constructed Nazareth Court and Center, Sister Virginia's ministry and care were devoted to the residents of the Alzheimer's Unit at St. Francis Home. Sister had a special gift for helping those with dementia, and she assisted the staff as a volunteer until December 2013.

Sister was preceded in death by her parents John Joseph Murphy and Ethel Mae (La Belle) Murphy and her brother John (Jack) Murphy.

She is survived by: her brothers Peter Murphy, Joseph Murphy and Paul Murphy; her sisters Patricia Foley, Alice Murphy, and Maryann Salvin; and the Sisters of St. Agnes, with whom she lived, prayed and ministered.

Visitation for Sister Virginia will be held at Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, on Wednesday, September 23, at 9:00 a.m. A prayer service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on the same date.

A Mass of Christian Burial: on Wednesday, September 23, at 2:00 p.m. in St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Father Ken Smits, Capuchin, will be the presider. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery.

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

The Sisters of St. Agnes are grateful to the nurses and staff of Nazareth Court and Center/St. Francis Home for their care of Sister Virginia and for the recent care of the staff of Hospice Hope.

Zacherl Funeral Home is serving the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Agnes.