



**In death,
we say our ultimate yes
to our Creator.
Trusting in God's power
to bring us to fulfillment of life,
we see death as an act of worship:
in dying, we proclaim God, God;
and ourselves, creatures.**

**Although in grief,
the community gratefully affirms this,
our final earthly proclamation
of the good news...
In hope and peace,
we enter into the joy of the Lord!**

You Are Sent #47



Sister Mary Aquin Baumgartner

**Born
February 1, 1916**

**Professed
August 18, 1938**

**Ministry
teacher, tutor, volunteer
Illinois, Iowa, Missouri**

**Died
November 27, 2006**



**School Sisters of Notre Dame
of St. Louis**

“Lord, take and receive all.” This saying represents Sister Mary Aquin’s approach to life. On February 1, 1916, the fifth of eight children was born to Emma (Poeling) and Jacob Baumgartner in St. Louis. She was baptized five days later at Holy Trinity Church in north St. Louis on February 6 and received the name Ruth.

Ruth attended Holy Trinity School where she was educated by the Sisters of St. Francis. She completed high school at Rosati-Kain and was greatly influenced by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. The seeds of Ruth’s vocation to religious life were planted by her sister-teachers who made a lasting impression and her oldest sister who became a sister of the Most Precious Blood. During her senior year of high school, the call to follow Christ as a religious strengthened. After much consideration, Ruth realized that she desired to become a School Sister of Notre Dame.



She fulfilled this desire when she entered the candidature on January 29, 1935. Prior to her reception, plans were changed due to a large number of sick sisters. She, along with 13 others, offered to teach for a year. She taught her first kindergarten class in Washington, Missouri. She was received into the novitiate two years later on August 17, 1937 and given the name Mary Aquin. Profession of first vows was on August 18, 1938, and final vows on August 18, 1944.

For 48 years, she taught grades elementary through junior high at St. Francis Solanus, Quincy, Illinois; St. Francis de Sales, St. Gabriel the Archangel and Immaculate Heart of Mary in St. Louis; St. Mary, Fort Madison, Iowa; St. Mary, Belleville, Illinois; Holy Angels and St. Joseph in East St.

Louis, Illinois; and St. Martin, Jefferson City, Missouri. She ministered as a staff member and tutor for 19 years in the Notre Dame Tutorial Center in St. Louis. She served as a volunteer for more than 10 years at St. Augustine Wellston Center in Wellston, Missouri.

In September 2005, Sister Mary Aquin was missioned to Veronica House. She died peacefully at DePaul Health Center on November 27, 2006, at 9:19 a.m. with sisters and family members praying at her bedside.

She donated her body to Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Sister Mary Aquin was survived by a sister, Flora Baumgartner, of St. Louis. Her sister, nieces, nephews, grandnieces grandnephews, great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews, and SSNDs attend the memorial Mass celebrated by Rev. Len Krause, SJ, on November 30, 2006, at the motherhouse.



Sister Mary Aquin earned great respect as a math teacher and tutor. She is remembered as an unassuming, kind and loving person who enjoyed making others happy. She had a great love for the poor, which was evidenced by her dedication to help wherever she was needed at Wellston Center. Sister Mary Aquin was always very supportive of her SSND family, as well as her own family. May she now enjoy the rewards of eternal life with her Risen Savior!