



Sister Muriel Spartz, OSB, 90, died peacefully on January 26, 2019. She was a resident of Estelline Nursing & Care Center in Estelline SD at the time of her death.

Born Rita Mae Spartz, on January 26, 1929, in Kranzburg, SD, Sister Muriel was one of six children of Nick and Agnes (Staudacher) Spartz. She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings.

Sister Muriel graduated from Mount Marty High School, Yankton in the spring of 1946 and then entered Sacred Heart Convent, in Yankton, SD a few months later. She made her first monastic profession on June 24, 1948. In 1961, Sister Muriel joined one hundred thirty-six other religious women from the Sacred Heart Benedictines to become a founding member of Mother of God Monastery in Pierre, SD.

Sister Muriel attended Mount Marty College obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education in 1964. She earned a Master of Arts in Elementary Administration in 1971 from Northern State College in Aberdeen, SD. She began her elementary teaching career in the fall of 1948. From 1948 to 1982, Sister Muriel served as teacher and principal at elementary schools in Yankton, Chamberlain, Richardton, Selfridge, Glen Ullin, Hoven and Pierre. She was a member of the South Dakota Catholic Principals Association for many years.

She completed a Corporate Ministry Program at St. Louis University, MO in 1983 which prepared her to serve as Director of Religious Education for 26 years at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Watertown and at St. George Parish in Hartford before retiring to the Monastery in Watertown in 2009. Sister Muriel was blessed to be part of a large extended family, who loved and cherished the beautiful, witty, caring soul she was.

*"I like being a Benedictine sister of Mother of God Monastery because these are the people I have chosen to live and grow with. These are the people where I meet and serve the wounded Christ and the resurrected Christ."*

S. Muriel