

Dr. Elinor R. Ford

FORMER SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

Dr. Elinor R. Ford, former superintendent of schools in the archdiocese, died Dec. 22 at her home in Fairview, N.C. She was 87.

Dr. Ford served as superintendent of schools, 1972-1976, when the archdiocesan school system had approximately 200 elementary and 80 secondary schools.

"The entire Catholic school com-

munity in the Archdiocese of New York mourns the loss of Dr. Elinor Ford, a pioneer of Catholic education and a devoted steward of our school system," said Dr. Timothy J. McNiff, the current superintendent of schools in the archdiocese.

"Her wisdom and dedication as an educator and visionary transformed the lives of countless young people

in New York, and across the nation, through her tireless work to promote Christ-centered, academically excellent schools. Her memory will live on through the generations of Catholic school leaders and alumni who continue to be inspired by her standards of excellence."

After serving as superintendent of schools, she chaired the New York Archdiocesan Council for Religious Education and established the National Catholic Educational Association's first national parent organization while serving as a professor in the graduate education department at Fordham University.

Dr. Ford served as publisher, 1979-1984, and president, 1984-1991, of the William H. Sadlier Publishing Company, before spending the last 25 years of her life helping to create future leaders of Catholic education.

She received many honors and five honorary degrees, including the 2007 National Catholic Educational Association's St. Elizabeth Seton Presidential Award, the organization's highest honor. She was honored by the Canadian Catholic Schools Trustees Association



Dr. Elinor R. Ford

for her contributions to and support of Canadian Catholic education in 1995. The next year, she received the NCEA's Msgr. John Meyer Award, and Dr. Ford was named by Today's Catholic Teacher magazine in 1997 as one of the 25 most influential people in Catholic education in the previous 25 years.

In 2003, Fordham University presented Dr. Ford

with its Catholic Education Executive Leadership Award. At Fordham, she was a full professor in the graduate education department and directed the graduate program for nonpublic school administrators. As professor emerita, she was one of eight major speakers for the schools division of Pope Francis' World Congress on Catholic Education, "Education Today and Tomorrow, A Renewing Passion," in Rome in 2015.

Born in Manhattan, Dr. Ford received her doctorate from Columbia University.

Her sisters, Dr. Veronica C. Berreen and Irene D. McAuley, survive her.

A Funeral Mass was offered Dec. 29 at St. Eugene's Church in Ashville, N.C., followed by inurnment at St. Eugene's Columbarium.

Sister Aida, Served Latino Community

Sister Aida Robles, R.C., who served the Latino community in the archdiocese, including through the Manhattan parishes of Ascension, Our Lady of Esperanza and St. Teresa, died Dec. 26 at Villa St. Joseph in Rockville Centre. She was 94.

Sister Aida served at Ascension, 1972-1982, offering spiritual and maternal assistance to Spanish-speaking people at Ascension Parish Retreat House, and at Our Lady of Esperanza, 1982-2003.

Sister Aida was a spiritual director for two decades at Camp Wethersfield in Amenia, a summer camp for poor inner-city families who were primarily Spanish-speaking.

She also served in Ronkonkoma and Boston.

She retired in 2008 to Villa St. Joseph in Rockville Centre where she was cared for by the Congregation of the Infant Jesus.

Born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, she entered the Cenacle Sisters in 1960 and made final vows in 1968.

Sister Aida was one of the foundresses of the Cenacle Sisters in Lima, Peru, in 1966.


A Funeral Mass will be offered at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at Villa St. Joseph in Rockville Centre. Burial will follow at the Cenacle in Ronkonkoma, the sisters' cemetery.

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