



Birth
February 16, 1924

Baptism
March 4, 1924

Profession
August 9, 1945

Death
November 15, 2014

Burial
Notre Dame of
Elm Grove Cemetery
Elm Grove, Wisconsin

*Precious and blessed is
the death of the faithful
before God... for
they die in union with
their dear Jesus, in the
grace of God, in peace.*

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
Letter 11, September 10, 1831

In Loving Memory

Sister Anne Raymond Gasser, SSND

“I’ve been told that a very proud father appeared a little late for work on the morning of February 17, 1924 and announced to his employees that he was the father of a baby girl born last night. This baby girl happened to be me, for I was born to Emma and Raymond, on February 16, 1924 in Boscobel, Wis.” These are the words written by Sister Anne Raymond in the opening sentence of her autobiography.

She goes on to write that two days after she arrived home from the hospital, she was baptized at Immaculate Conception Church in Boscobel, receiving the name Yvonne Jane. She was the third oldest of eight children, seven girls and one boy. Three of the girls never experienced the joy of living, for they died shortly after birth.

Yvonne, Sister Anne Raymond, Anne, Annie – no matter how you knew her – as sister, aunt, great aunt, friend, teacher, community member, pastoral associate or minister of Sacred Hearts in Sun Prairie ... she was a dedicated School Sister of Notre Dame with a big heart, generous spirit and hands that were always reaching out to help, comfort and support. She blessed the people of the parish of Sacred Hearts and of the city of Sun Prairie with her faith-filled presence and ministry for 36 years.

For an article in the Catholic Herald, in Madison, Wis., she was asked who most influenced her life. She responded: “My parents by their example of love and faithfulness.” Yvonne’s parents were devout and faithful Catholics. She received her secondary education at St. Mary’s Academy in Prairie du Chien, Wis., where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She said, “God called me to this life. I think I always wanted to be a religious but it wasn’t until I was a senior in high school that I said, ‘Okay God I will at least go and give it a try.’”

Following high school graduation, Yvonne entered the candidature. Upon her reception as a novice in 1944, she received the religious name Anne Raymond. She professed her first vows on August 9, 1945. Sister Anne earned a bachelor’s degree with a major in sociology and minors in history and English from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee in 1958 and a master’s degree in religious education from Loyola University, Chicago in 1970.

Sister Anne served as a teacher of primary students for 25 years. Her first assignment as a professed sister was at St. Alphonsus, Chicago. The rest of her teaching missions were in Wisconsin at: St. James, Madison; Holy Rosary, Darlington; St. Aloysius, Arcadia; St. Willibrord, Green Bay and Our Lady of Peace, Marshfield. From 1970-1976, she was religious education coordinator for the Diocese of La Crosse, Wis., in the Department of Catholic Education. In 1976, she was called to service as a pastoral associate at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish in Sun Prairie, Wis. She ministered there for 36 years. Upon her retirement in 2012, Sister Anne joined the Notre Dame of Elm Grove community where she served through her prayers and presence.

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Anne Raymond Gasser



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**School Sisters
of Notre Dame**
Central Pacific Province

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
THROUGH EDUCATION

During her 36 years of devoted service at Sacred Hearts in Sun Prairie, Wis., Sister Anne Raymond, responded to the pastoral care needs of her parishioners, especially the homebound, elderly, bereaved and disabled. She faithfully brought the Eucharist to the parish members at their homes or in hospitals and nursing homes each day and considered it an honor and a joy to do so, always witnessing her deep respect for each person she served.

I had the privilege of enjoying life with Annie for 12 years. During that time, we lived in communities ranging in size from two (Annie and me) to 11 – during which time we lived in two houses – a large convent and later in a parish duplex.

When I first served at Sacred Hearts, I went there to begin a kindergarten program that was expected to be self-supporting for the first three years of its existence. Annie was one of my biggest cheerleaders and a great PR person and advocate of the program.

During my last four years at Sacred Hearts, after the parish went from having three priests to two, Annie and I served together as pastoral associates. Annie was a great mentor and role model. I learned lots about pastoral care from her and I am very grateful!

Among the many things we did was to prepare weekday Communion services with reflections. No matter which of us had the service, we would always go over to open the church together at 6 a.m. and be there to support each other and pray with the parish community.

Annie stayed at Sacred Hearts long after I left, continuing her faithful and loving service, continuing to give generously and selflessly in whatever ways she could to the people of Sacred Hearts and throughout Sun Prairie, with them loving her – for her friendship, compassion, loyalty, feistiness, wit, wisdom and everything else that went into making Annie who she was.

Transitioning to life in Elm Grove was a challenge for Annie but once she was here ... like Annie, she put her heart and soul into whatever she did ... bringing with her that special gift of her sense of humor. “Hi, old lady!” she would say to me on her way to Mass each day. And I would respond “Hi spring chicken!” She sometimes said, “Some people must think we’re crazy.” She added, “But that’s okay!”

Annie was admitted to the hospital the morning of November 15 and died suddenly, that evening. She was alone when she died and my first thought was ... Why did she die alone? She sat at the bedside of so many others during their dying moments. Then it dawned on me that all those people to whom she brought Communion, all those people she visited and all those people she sat with in their dying moments were waiting at the gates of heaven with arms wide open ready to greet her, saying: “Welcome home, Annie. We love you and we have been waiting for you to come. Now, let’s really celebrate!”

Sister Anne Raymond is survived by her sister, Patricia Nelson; nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews, other relatives, dear friends and the SSND Community. May she rest in peace.

By Sister Marianne Kempa, SSND