



Birth
July 3, 1918

Baptism
July 7, 1918

Profession
August 3, 1937

Death
November 25, 2013

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 Elizabeth [Mary Adamine] Gnabasik, SSND

Born in Milwaukee on July 3, 1918, to Adam and Lucy (Popierlarska) Gnabasik, she was named Elizabeth and baptized on July 7, 1918 at St. Casimir Church in Milwaukee. She was the fourth of ten children. She said that she was blessed with a good family and home life. Elizabeth attended St. Casimir grade school where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame and noted how she felt the call to religious life since her first Communion day. Her desire to become a sister strengthened. Following eighth grade graduation in 1932, she entered the candidature and completed high school studies at the Milwaukee motherhouse. At reception in 1936, she was given the religious name Mary Adamine but in later years, returned to her baptismal name. She professed her first vows on August 3, 1937. Sister Elizabeth earned a bachelor's in elementary education and social studies from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee in 1970.

Sister Elizabeth ministered as a primary teacher at St. Leo, Milwaukee; St. Peter and Paul, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.; St. Anne, Milwaukee; St. Michael, Chicago; St. Aloysius, West Allis, Wis.; St. Agnes, Butler, Wis.; Holy Ghost, Chippewa Falls, Wis.; and St. Mary, Burlington, Wis. Sister Elizabeth retired in 1987 to Notre Dame of Elm Grove where she continued to offer her gifts of service, prayer and presence.

On her first Communion day, May 19, 1929, she felt the first promptings of the call "Follow Me." In the 1988 update to her autobiography she wrote, "This desire was strengthened when I had the privilege of cleaning the steps of St. Casimir Convent during my eighth year in that school. I never heard the Sisters say an unkind word to each other — so I decided Notre Dame was for me."

Her teaching career of 46 years was spent teaching first graders. Sister Elizabeth truly loved the little ones and they loved her. Two of her former students have come from Illinois to see her almost every summer. They told one of her caregivers, "She was such a sweetie and so good to us."

When back problems hindered Sister Elizabeth's work in the classroom she studied to be a librarian. She came to Elm Grove in that capacity and also added the work of sacristan to her duties. But sickness and stays at health care center resulted in the loss of these loved jobs also. Then she wrote, "I am grateful I can work in the craft room using many of the skills my dear mother taught me." She made beautiful things. A crocheted doily was even framed, it was so exceptional.

Sister Elizabeth loved all music. When polkas were played, her little foot would move with the rhythm. In response to "Dzien Dobry" her eyes sparkled. She loved hair care. Somehow she knew when it was Monday and would sit tall in her chair waiting to go. She returned looking like a little princess.

Sister Elizabeth loved roses, perhaps because of her patron saint. While living in Burlington, Wis., one of her delights during rose time was to give a fresh

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Elizabeth Gnabasik



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

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
THROUGH EDUCATION

blossom to the Blessed Mother. The community rose, presented today is a small sign of our gratitude for her life of love and teaching and suffering.

In a vision just before his death, St. Satorus saw an intense light, then a great garden with rose bushes and all kinds of flowers. Angels took him and the others through a gate to a throne on which sat an aged man with white hair and a youthful face. Angels lifted them up. They kissed the aged man. He touched their faces with his hands. Then the elders said to them, "Go and play."

— *Now Sister Elizabeth can play with all her loved ones
before the Lord, free and full of love!
Pray for us, Elizabeth,
who someday will follow you.
Praise God for your life. Amen.*

Sister Elizabeth died on November 25, 2013 at the Notre Dame of Elm Grove Community, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. She was 95. She is survived by her sister, Theresa Bartoczewicz, nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and the SSND Community. She was preceded in death by her parents Adam and Lucy; brothers, Stephen, Eugene, Chester and Ervin; and sisters, Louise Lewandowski, Amalia Mazurczak, Margaret Chapman and Lucille Kocinski.

By Sister Joan Emily Kaul, SSND