



Birth
November 13, 1926

Baptism
November 21, 1926

Profession
July 31, 1947

Death
February 25, 2015

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 Frances Marie Bochniak, SSND

Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on November 11, 1926, to Vincent and Frances (Antczak) Bochniak, she was baptized Lorraine Florence at Sacred Heart Church in Grand Rapids. She was the youngest of 13 children. Lorraine received her elementary education at Sacred Heart, where she loved learning and was very attached to her teachers, the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

She did not continue her secondary education immediately because she stayed home to care for her mother who was almost blind due to cataracts. In addition to being inspired by her SSND teachers, Lorraine was encouraged in her religious vocation by her father and her older sister, Sister Julie Ann (Rufina) Bochniak, SSND. Lorraine took the first year of her secondary schooling at Catholic Central in Grand Rapids.

She entered the SSND candidature at the Milwaukee motherhouse where she completed high school. At her reception in 1946, she was given the religious name Frances Marie. She professed her first vows on July 31, 1947. Sister Frances Marie received her bachelor's with a major in education and minors in social science and English from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee in 1959. She earned her master's in education from St. Francis College, Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1971.

Sister Frances Marie served in elementary education for 50 years as a teacher, principal and director of religious education. Her missions were: St. John Kanty, Milwaukee; St. John Cantius, Chicago; St. Patrick, Chesterton, Indiana; and in Michigan at: St. Vincent de Paul, Shepherd; Blessed Trinity, Frankenmuth; and Sacred Heart, Grand Rapids.

During Sister Frances Marie's time as director of religious education at Blessed Trinity Parish in Frankenmuth, Michigan, a German Lutheran town, she and Sister Meinrad Pickner were the only Catholic Sisters. They were revered by the people and were quite likely the best evangelizers the church could have had there.

At the time of her 60th Jubilee, she recounted her gratitude. – "All places offered their unique flavor of life. These were years engulfed in large bits and pieces of religion, reading, writing, arithmetic and lots of right stuff. The first priority was done with love and dedication. God's blessings abounded. Wrapping it all up, it's like attaining Olympic gold medals – grace of God, family, friends and happy memories."

With her retirement in 1997, Sister Frances Marie moved to the Notre Dame of Elm Grove community. She took faithful care of Sister Meinrad who died in 2009, at the age of 101. Sister Frances Marie continued to serve through her prayer and presence.

She died at the age of 88 on February 25, 2015 at Notre Dame of Elm Grove in Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Sister Frances Marie is survived by her sister

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister Frances Marie
Bochniak*



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

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
THROUGH EDUCATION

Esther Klimawicz, nieces, nephews, other relatives, dear friends, students and the SSND Community.

The following poem expresses very beautifully the witness of Sister Frances Marie's life.

Carrying Christ

Into the hillside country Mary went
carrying Christ, and all along the road
the Christ she carried generously bestowed
grace on those she met. She has not meant
to tell she carried Christ. She was content
to hide his love for her. But about her glowed
such joy that into stony hearts love flowed,
and even to the unborn Jesus Christ's grace was sent.

Christ in the sacrament of love each day
dwells in my soul a little space and then
I walk life's crowded highway, jostling those
who seldom think of God. For these I pray
that I may carry Christ, for it may be
some would not know of Christ except through me.

- Ruth Mary Fox

Many came to know Christ because of you, Sister Frances Marie.
Thank you for your loving ministry. Live on in joyful peace.

*This remembrance is compiled from SSND archival information
and the eulogy presented by Sister Joan Emily Kaul, SSND*