



In Loving Memory

Sister Jo Lynn St. John, SSND

Born in Escanaba, Michigan on August 2, 1945, to Joseph and Gwendolyn (Weaver) St. John, she was named Linda Lee and baptized on October 1, 1945 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Spalding, Michigan. Linda was their second child and only girl. Aaron was four years older than Linda and Howard was four years younger. She received her schooling at Powers-Spalding public schools, but had religious education once a week throughout the school year and three weeks during the summer. She was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame from first grade to seventh grade.

During high school Linda worked for a lady friend who catered weddings. She also baby-sat for a few families on a steady basis. In ninth grade she helped a lay teacher with her first grade religion class. During her senior year, she taught fourth grade religion class.

She graduated from Powers-Spalding High School in 1964 and entered the candidature of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in August. On July 13, 1965 Linda was received into the novitiate and became Sister Mary Joseph Lynn. She professed her first vows on July 14, 1966 and final vows on July 26, 1970.

Sister Jo Lynn served in Michigan at St. Joseph Parish, Escanaba and Holy Childhood School, Harbor Springs and in Wisconsin at Notre Dame Health Care Center, Elm Grove and St. Gall Parish, Milwaukee.

Among some ministry highlights were two summers when she worked at the St. Boniface Parish in Milwaukee at the Head Start program and taught sewing and cooking in the afternoon. She was transferred to the Notre Dame Health Care Center in Elm Grove, Wisconsin to do various types of work in homemaking, housekeeping and sewing.

Sister Jo Lynn was called to Harbor Springs in 1976, to be the house mother for the boys at Holy Childhood Indian Boarding School. "I learned a lot in those years," she wrote. "There was a chance to work with the 4-H Club. I taught the fourth and fifth grade boys how to make a shirt. They won blue ribbons for the project!" Creative and caring, she helped the boys to be profitably working and playing, besides keeping them clean and well-clothed.

In 1979 she had an opportunity to take a class at Mount Mary College in textiles to learn more about cloth in the making. Then while working at St. Gall's rectory Sister Jo Lynn also set up three sewing classes, two hours each, two days a week. Though it was a challenge, it was also a joy for her to see the people, both men and women, be proud of what they could do. They were even able to share what they did at their annual style show.

Due to illness, she needed in 1992 to retire at the Notre Dame of Elm Grove Community where she continued ministry through prayer and presence.

Even though Sister Jo Lynn developed multiple sclerosis, she tried her best to do what she could. She didn't complain. While she was in the nursing home at Havenwood, she was appreciative of wheelchair rides around the

Birth
August 2, 1945

Baptism
October 1, 1945

Profession
July 14, 1966

Death
November 28, 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

continued

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block and trips to McDonalds for an ice cream cone or a hamburger. As her condition progressed to a point where she could not talk much, or not at all, she continued smiling when people came to visit.

Sister Jo Lynn was known by her classmates and co-workers as a quiet, private person, a hard worker with a strong joyful, playful attitude. She was always willing to help others. This remarkable seamstress and homemaker exuded simplicity, humility, joy and perseverance. We are grateful to be her sisters.

Sister Jo Lynn St. John died at Notre Dame of Elm Grove on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2013, at the age of 68. She is survived by her brother, Aaron (Laurel) St. John; sister-in-law, Sandy St. John; nephew, Alan (June) St. John; nieces, Lana St. John, Jaclyn (Robert) Feller, Lynnette (Dan) Stein and Allison Desotelle; and many great nieces and nephews; other relatives; dear friends; and the SSND Community. In addition to her parents, Joe and Gwen St. John, she was preceded in death by her brother, Howard; infant nephew, Christopher St. John; and nephew, Arlan St. John. A wake service was celebrated December 5, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at The Holy Family Chapel at Notre Dame of Elm Grove.

By Sister Jean Paul Zagorski, SSND