



**Birth**  
Nov. 16, 1926

**Baptism**  
Dec. 5, 1926

**Profession**  
July 31, 1951

**Death**  
Dec. 22, 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 Joelise Restle, SSND

**B**orn in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Nov. 16, 1926, to Joseph and Elizabeth (Lynch) Restle, she was baptized Mary Elizabeth by her uncle, Father William Restle, at Holy Angels Church in Milwaukee. Four years later her cherished brother Joe entered the family. Mary and Joe were blessed by loving parents. She attended Holy Angels School, where she received her first Communion in May 1936. Tragedy occurred a month later when her father suffered a cerebral hemorrhage which led to his death in 1938.

Her mother returned to State Teachers College to prepare to teach again. In 1940, Mary graduated from Holy Angels grade school and her mother received her bachelor's degree. Mary enrolled in Messmer High School with financial help from her uncle who paid her tuition. In 1944, three graduations took place: Joe from grade school, Mary from high school and their mother who completed a master's degree from Marquette University.

Mary went to Marquette, completing her bachelor's degree in 1948. She took a teaching position at Our Lady of Lourdes in Marinette, Wisconsin. The School Sisters of Notre Dame who were on the faculty encouraged her in her religious vocation. In 1949 Mary entered the SSND candidature at the motherhouse of the former Milwaukee Province. She received the religious name Mary Joelise, which combined her parents' names. She professed first vows on July 31, 1951. In addition to her bachelor's degree, Sister Joelise completed a pastoral associate certificate program in 1983 through the U.S. Catholic Conference for Chaplain Services in Washington, D.C.

During the years 1949-1957, Sister Joelise taught at the motherhouse in Milwaukee, Columbus High School in Marshfield, Wisconsin and Mount Mary College in Milwaukee. Her work shifted to occupational therapy with her service at the Notre Dame Health Center in Elm Grove, Wisconsin from 1957-1975. She was elected as a councilor on the leadership team for the former Mequon Province, serving 1975-1979. Her pastoral care and chaplaincy work continued in 1980 with ministry at St. Michael Hospital and Marian Franciscan Center in Milwaukee. Sister Joelise retired in 2007 but continued sharing in volunteer ministry. In 2012, she joined the Notre Dame of Elm Grove community where she served through prayer and presence.

Sister Joelise wore many hats in diverse ministries she engaged in professionally and in her extracurricular interests. One of those was the big, floppy, straw hat she wore while she beautified the backyard of SSND's Shalom Community on 84th Street in Milwaukee. She planted cosmos, dahlias, gerbera daisies and zinnias. Gardening was an interest throughout her life. In fact, a new seed catalogue arrived shortly before she died. Plans were already in the offing for the porch garden on her floor. Her love and knowledge of nature were manifested by her frequent pauses on a walk for a mini-lecture to her partners on plant specimens she spotted. As she tended her garden, she also enjoyed many chats with neighbors that always expanded into interest and concern for their families.

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Joeline Restle*



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

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD  
THROUGH EDUCATION

Relationship-building was a gift of Sister Joeline. People appreciated her as an eager and thoughtful participant in parish faith-sharing groups. They also savored her bran muffins which she invariably brought to their meetings. Her warm relationship skills were amply drawn upon in her ministry of occupational therapy to our retired sisters during the time she directed enrichment services, as well as in her role as provincial councilor. Her numerous extended family members can testify to how well she shared her love and interest in them.

Her last area of ministry was pastoral chaplaincy with the Wheaton Franciscan System. It was not uncommon for Sister Joeline to receive a call in the middle of the night to return to the bedside of a dying patient at one of the hospitals. She also shared her gift of compassionate care with her invalid mother until her death.

An interest Sister Joeline developed and engaged in right up to the end of her life was photography. Her eye for beauty and unusual angles to be captured on film led her into several new skills that photography generated. Many times we would find her after midnight editing her work or slumped over the computer getting a bit of shut-eye. Many of her masterpieces can be found in the gift shop and along the corridor outside her room at Notre Dame of Elm Grove.

Sister Joeline died on Dec. 22, 2015 at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wis. at the age of 89. She is survived by her loving extended family of nieces and nephews, dear friends and the SSND Community. Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Retirement Fund, c/o SSND Mission Advancement Office, 13105 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122-2291.

Sister Joeline ended her autobiography as she approached first profession of vows with this wish – “that with the grace of God I will be admitted to Holy Vows, be a faithful spouse of Jesus Christ, and a loving daughter of his Blessed Mother.”

If I may presume to pass judgment, I’d say, “*Joeline, you have fulfilled that wish, and no doubt, Jesus told you so in endearing terms as you flew into his arms on Dec. 22.*”

*This remembrance is compiled from SSND archival information and the eulogy presented by Sister Mary Catherine Dundon, SSND.*