



**Birth**  
April 1, 1924

**Baptism**  
October 19, 1924

**Profession**  
July 31, 1947

**Death**  
December 11, 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 M. Rose Martin Homontowski, SSND

**B**orn in Pound, Wisconsin on April 1, 1924, to Stanley and Frances (Myzskowski) Homontowski, she was named Eleanor and baptized on October 19, 1924 at St. Leo Church in Pound. She was the ninth of 12 children – eight girls and four boys. Eleanor attended a district school and was catechized at St. Leo Parish during the summer. Her aunt, Sister Mary Regula Myszkowska, was a School Sister of Notre Dame and had a tremendous influence on Eleanor’s life.

Soon after her first Holy Communion, her parents joined the Jehovah’s Witnesses and forbade all Catholic practices in her home. For the next nine years, she did not believe in any religion. When Eleanor was a junior in high school, some members of the family were in an auto accident. She left high school in order to care for them. Eleanor wrote it was Divine Providence that brought her at the age of 16 to Mount Mary College where she helped Sister Regula in the kitchen. After nearly two years of bitter struggles against Sister Regula’s encouragement and prayers and the prayers of the other sisters, Eleanor returned to the Catholic Church in 1942.

Eleanor’s call to become a School Sisters of Notre Dame came less than one year after her return to the Catholic faith. Sister Regula was going to make her retreat and asked Eleanor if she had any special prayer intentions. In her autobiography, Eleanor recounted the experience.

“Since I had been resisting her kind efforts to bring me back to the Church, I answered rather flippantly, ‘Oh, whatever Harriet (my roommate) asked for is okay for me, too.’ Each day while on retreat, Sister prayed for a good husband for Harriet and for me.

“On March 19, during Sister Regula’s retreat, I decided to become a nun! It was an instantaneous, unpremeditated decision. I told the girls and the sisters in the kitchen of my intention. Harriet laughed and refused to believe me. All she said was, ‘You must be kidding.’

“When Sister Regula returned, I rushed to meet her so I could be the first one to give her the news. She was flabbergasted, but we agreed that her prayers had obtained the best husband for me. I entered our congregation on June 19.”

Eleanor entered the candidature of the School Sisters of Notre Dame on June 19, 1944. At reception in 1946, she was given the religious name Mary Rose Martin. She professed her first vows on July 31, 1947. She earned a bachelor’s degree in social science and education from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee in 1957.

Sister Rose Martin ministered for 38 years as a teacher of mostly intermediate level students. She was missioned to just one school outside of Wisconsin – St. Mary, Alexandria, Indiana. In Wisconsin, she taught at St. Mary, Glen Haven; Holy Cross, Mount Calvary; St. Malachy, Horicon; Holy Assumption, West Allis; Holy Angels, West Bend and in Milwaukee at St. Ann, Holy Trinity-Guadalupe, Holy Cross and St. Stephen.

*continued*

# *In Loving Memory*



*Sister M. Rose Martin  
Homontowski*



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

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD  
THROUGH EDUCATION

She retired in 1985 and lived for 15 years at Mount Carmel Convent in Mount Calvary. With subsequent moves to Havenwood Nursing Home and to the Notre Dame of Elm Grove Community, she continued to serve through prayer and presence.

Sister M. Rose Martin was 89 years old when she died at Notre Dame of Elm Grove on December 11, 2013. A wake service was celebrated on December 13, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in the Holy Family Chapel at Notre Dame of Elm Grove. She is survived by her sister, Ann (Richard) Russell, nieces, nephews, other relatives, dear friends and the SSND Community.

Sister Rose Martin was a loving and giving person. Though she experienced a lot of physical pain, she did not complain. Today's Gospel fits well for the life and journey of Sister Rose Martin. "Come to me all you who are weary and find life burdensome and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart."

God bless you, Rose Martin. Continue to pray for us.

*By Sister Dorothy Land, SSND*