



**Birth**  
July 8, 1932

**Baptism**  
July 10, 1932

**Profession**  
July 12, 1954

**Death**  
January 17, 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 Marie Cecile Huser, SSND

Sister Marie Cecile was born on July 8, 1932 to Casper and Cecilia [Kelly] Huser in Vesper, Wis., and baptized Gilberta at St. Joseph Church in Altdorf, Wis. She was the second of five children (four girls and one boy) born to the family. Gilberta opened her autobiography writing, “Five children were born into our family – four girls and one boy. We lived in Altdorf (named after a little village in Switzerland.) Our mom, the only Irish resident had been a teacher so she had many books and found others from a traveling library for the children to read. When Pat, the youngest was born, mom became paralyzed and spent much time in hospitals in Wisconsin and Illinois. Sister Marie Cecile and her older sister took on household duties and our mother died a few years later at age 45.”

Gilberta first attended the Altdorf public grade school from which she graduated after six years. In 7th grade she met the SSNDs in Pittsville. The last two years of elementary education and high school gave her the opportunity to experience the SSNDs. Her aunt was a Dominican and some of her cousins were Franciscans, Agnesians, or Notre Dames (Sisters Petranda and Nerine). She wanted to be a missionary but a priest friend suggested she be a School Sister of Notre Dame since she wanted to be a teacher. She worked a year before entering the community.

On January 18, 1952, Gilberta entered the candidature at the Milwaukee motherhouse. On July 7, 1953, as a novice, she was given the new name, Marie Cecile, very like, her mother’s name. Sister Marie Cecile professed her first vows on July 12, 1954 and her perpetual vows on July 12, 1960. She earned a bachelor’s degree in history, English and German from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, in 1963 and a master’s degree in social studies and administration from Clarke College, Dubuque, Iowa.

She began her teaching career in 1954 with primary or junior high students. She enjoyed the 8<sup>th</sup> graders who did social justice projects in the field. Sister Marie Cecile ministered for 38 years as a teacher and principal. Her ministry locations included the following schools: St. Alphonsus, Chicago; and in Wisconsin at: St. Leonard, Muskego; St. Frances Cabrini, West Bend; St. Philip, Rudolph; Our Lady of Lourdes, Marinette; St. Stephen, Stevens Point; St. Joseph, LaCrosse; and St. John Nepomucene, Prairie du Chien.

School Sister of Notre Dame, sister, aunt, friend and a beloved community member; Woman of Love, Woman of Prayer, Woman of Adventure, Woman of Life – Sister Marie Cecile was all of these. She truly shared love within the congregation, with family and friends. She was a gifted woman dedicated to God and living life with wonderful opportunities and unique journeys. She loved life and experienced great delight in traveling. Sister journeyed to Guatemala, Mexico, Italy, Switzerland, and Alaska and other countries. She had a wide interest in the world events. During one summer she spent a week in New York with a captivating group of homeless folks. She felt at ease with the homeless folks greeting her along the way.

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Marie Cecile Huser*



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

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD  
THROUGH EDUCATION

One of the highlights of her life was the Jubilee experience in Rome. Another great time was when three fellow sisters escorted Sister Marie Cecile on a road trip to help her celebrate her 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee and visit her family in Utah and California. In 1990, she accompanied a Lutheran group to England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Her visits to other countries had given her a deeper appreciation for other cultures and religions. At the time of her 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, her family planned a visit to her father's family home area in Switzerland. Eighteen relatives toured parts of that country and had a Jubilee dinner in Altdorf, Switzerland.

Sister Marie Cecile was generous and willing to assist those in need. She loved helping students. After 38 years as teacher and principal, she began a new ministry in 1992, as the accounts payable staff person for the SSND Finance Office for five years. Subsequently, she was privileged to be a coordinator at the Milwaukee Achiever Literacy Services Pierce Street location. Prior to retiring, she served for eight years at the Interfaith Older Adult Program in Cudahy, Wis. In 2008, with her retirement at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Sister Marie Cecile continued to serve as a volunteer tutor and by her prayers and presence. During her spare time, she loved to paint watercolors, read, do puzzles and study languages.

The concern and compassion that Sister Marie Cecile's family extended to sister and one another were exceptional. Our sincere appreciation and gratitude for Sister Marie Cecile will never go away. In her words, one of her favorite sayings was: "If you want to build a ship, don't (get) people together to collect wood and (take up) tasks, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea." (Saint-Exupery)

Sister Marie Cecile is survived by her siblings Mary (Elmer) Horn, Bernard (Jean) Huser, Patricia Ciotti, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, other relatives, dear friends and the SSND Community. She was preceded in death by her parents, Casper and Cecilia and a sister Rosemarie Ebacher.

Today's readings and songs reflect sister's journey in life. She wrote, "We are the image of God and life is discovering that image and setting it free." We thank you Marie Cecile for showing us how to live life to the fullest and in your words, "thank everyone for everything."

*By Sister Marie Rose Van Deurzen, SSND*