



Birth
March 20, 1926

Baptism
March 28, 1926

Profession
July 31, 1947

Death
December 31, 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 Mary Barbara Ann Sarnowski, SSND

The first child of Alphonse and Cecilia (Brukwicki) Sarnowski was born March 20, 1926 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At baptism, she received the name Theresa because her mother had a special devotion to the recently canonized Little Flower. Two brothers and three sisters were eventually added to the family.

Her elementary schooling was at St. Casimir and St. Gall in Milwaukee. During eighth grade, she particularly enjoyed the opportunity to do some craft work during art class. In her autobiography, Theresa said, "Making things always appealed to me." Additionally, she wrote about the ordinary happy family life and the respect and love her parents had for each other. It was only later, during her teaching career that she realized not all families were so blessed. Her summers were spent babysitting, doing soda fountain work and acting as an A and B operator in the telephone company.

She attended Messmer High School in Milwaukee where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. It was during her junior year that she became interested in religious life. She said, "It was an inclination rather than any person that influenced my life. Before that, religious life was farthest from my mind." Following her high school graduation in 1944, she entered the SSND candidature. At reception in 1946, she was given the religious name Mary Barbara Ann. She professed her first vows on July 31, 1947. She earned a bachelor's degree in history from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee in 1956; a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Marquette University, Milwaukee in 1971; and a nursing assistant certificate from Waukesha Technical College, Pewaukee, Wis. in 1974.

Sister Barbara Ann started out as a teacher. It was in that capacity that I lived with her at St. John's in Marshfield, Wis. We were quite a young community. Walking was not a problem. So when Sister Nivard Schaefer invited the SSNDs of Marshfield (Columbus High, Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Peace and St. John's) to a New Year's Day party in Hewitt, some of us wanted to walk the few miles, among them Sister Barbara Ann. I was in the advance group. We were hardly out of the city limits when the question began to pop up. "Are we almost there?" Meanwhile the second group which included Sister Barbara Ann was being over-taken by cars whose drivers would ask, "Want a ride?" The sisters replied, "No thanks." So these same cars would cheerily pass us, calling out, "We know you want to walk." Ugh. However, we did get there, had a great time and we all rode back.

She loved sweets. When asked what her three favorite foods were, she would answer, "Chocolate, chocolate, chocolate."

Sister Barbara Ann took her prayer life seriously. Her copy of Thomas Keating's, "Open Heart, Open Mind," was dog-eared. She had a little banner with the message: "If your day is hemmed in by prayer, it is less likely to unravel."

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister Mary Barbara Ann
Sarnowski*



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

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
THROUGH EDUCATION

Sister Mary Barbara Ann ministered in education for 28 years, teaching mostly intermediate and junior high students. She taught at St. Stanislaus Kostka and St. Michael in Chicago. Her other teaching locations were in Wisconsin at: St. Leo and Holy Cross, Milwaukee; St. John the Baptist, Marshfield; St. Mary, Burlington; St. Peter, Beaver Dam; and Christ King, Wauwatosa. She was grateful for the opportunity to work at the Notre Dame Health Care Center, Elm Grove during the summers. She wrote the following about the valuable insights this provided: "It gives one a good perspective in life and teaches lessons in charity and humility that many hours of spiritual reading could never accomplish." This experience influenced her to serve the SSND community for 29 years as a nursing assistant at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Convent, Mount Calvary, Wis. and at Notre Dame of Elm Grove.

She retired in 2003 and lived for eight years at Notre Dame of Elm Grove. She moved to Our Lady of the Angels Community in Greenfield, Wis. in 2011, where she continued to share her gifts of prayer and presence. Sister Mary Barbara Ann is survived by her sisters: Barbara, Patricia and Loretta, her brother Jerome, other relatives, friends and the SSND Community.

Dear Barbara Ann, you've been encompassed by the all-embracing love of your Savior/God/Spouse. Remember us, your family and friends as we skip along or plod along, whatever the case may be, on our way to the Trinity. Thank you for being our friend and sister.

By Sister Joan Emily Kaul, SSND