



Birth
December 18, 1909

Baptism
December 19, 1909

Profession
July 23, 1930

Death
October 5, 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 Eugenda Frankowska, SSND

Sister Mary Eugenda was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on December 18, 1909, the eighth child of Andrew and Michaline (Malek) Frankowski. She was baptized Pelogia on December 19 at Sacred Heart Church but she was always called Pearl. There were 11 children in the family – four girls and seven boys but three of the boys died. Her parents were both born in Poland. In her autobiography, Pearl described a happy home life and parents who were faith-filled people and who nurtured that same faith in their children. When she was five years old, her oldest sister [Sister Mary Nobilis, SSND] entered the convent. Pearl noted, "...from that time on I longed for the day when I, too, may enter."

She attended Sacred Heart School for grades one to nine and was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. When Pearl was 12-years-old, her mother died. A few years later, her father gave his permission for her to enter the convent. She then entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame on August 27, 1925 as a sophomore and completed high school. She professed her first vows on July 23, 1930. Sister Mary Eugenda received a bachelor's degree in education from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee in 1945 and a master's degree in education from Marquette University, Milwaukee in 1952.

Sister Mary Eugenda ministered for 58 years as an educator and for six years in service to seniors. She taught in Wisconsin at St. Hyacinth, Milwaukee; St. Joseph, West Allis; Blessed Sacrament, St. Cyril and Methodius, St. Hedwig, St. Casimir and St. Mary Czestochowa in Milwaukee. While serving in Michigan, she taught at St. Isidore, St. Adalbert, St. James and Sacred Heart – all in Grand Rapids. In addition to teaching, she served as principal at St. Cyril and Methodius, Milwaukee and St. Adalbert, Grand Rapids.

Sister Eugenda was grateful for the opportunities she had to travel to educational conventions, workshops and conferences. The highlight of her travels was the trip to Rome for the Spiritual Renewal Program, and then the chance to visit special places in Poland.

In 1976, she was called to ministry with the Interfaith Program for the Elderly in Milwaukee. With rain or shine and heat or cold, she served for six years by making home visits to seniors, learning about their needs and making referrals for assistance. She returned in 1982 to Grand Rapids, where for 10 years, she helped Polish refugees learn the English language and also tutored students falling behind in their school work at Sacred Heart School, her alma mater, and it brought her much happiness.

She retired in 1992 to Notre Dame of Elm Grove where she ministered through her prayer and presence. For 21 more years, she was a gift to us and all whom she came in contact with here. As she gracefully aged, one could sense her closeness to her Beloved Lord and she would often say "I am ready to meet Jesus."

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister Mary Eugenda
Frankowska*



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www.ssndcentralpacific.org



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

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
THROUGH EDUCATION

I was able to sit and pray with her the morning she met Jesus face to face. It was a graced time for me. She kept reaching out with her right arm and I believe she was seeing Jesus coming for her to embrace his faithful daughter who served so many for so many years.

Sister Mary Eugenda Frankowska is survived by nieces, nephews, dear friends and the SSND Community.

Thank you Sister Eugenda! I will always remember our special Polish breakfast when you celebrated your 100th birthday. Frank's kielbasa from Grand Rapids never tasted so good. I know you will be singing our Polish Christmas carols with the angels this year and looking down and smiling on us as we sing them here on earth.

Eulogy by Sister Phyllis Marie Grzeczka, SSND