

In Loving Memory

Sister Mary Milo McCabe, SSND



Birth
August 11, 1926

Baptism
August 29, 1926

Profession
August 11, 1946

Death
March 9, 2013

Burial
St. Jerome Cemetery
Oconomowoc, 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

Sister Mary Milo McCabe began her life with her twin sister, Mary Louise on August 11, 1926. They were born to Mary Catherine Anglesburg and Milo John McCabe in Quinnesec, Michigan. Mary Louise died a few hours later; though Patricia Gerard (Mary Milo) was smaller, she was hardier. Two brothers, Albert and John, were born before her and they were quick to call her “Sis,” a name that is still used by the family. In fact, nieces and nephews were shocked when they found out she had another name. On Patricia Gerard's first day of school, Sister Remedios got no answer when she called, “Patricia.” After several tries, her brother John, who was in second grade, called out, “Hey, Sis, she means you.”

When Patricia was about a year old, the McCabe family moved to West Allis, Wisconsin where her sister Shirley and Edward were born. When she was five, the family moved again to Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Milo and Bill were born here and the family stayed in Oconomowoc. There are two living members of this family: her brother John and her sister Shirley.

Bill, the youngest, was the first of the family to die. She wrote in her autobiography, “Bill was killed when his jet plane exploded on January 22, 1959. Our greatest consolation at this time was the letter received from the Chaplain at the air base stating that, of anyone on the base, Bill was the most prepared to go. He went on to tell of the wonderful example of Christian living he had been to all the men.” Then, seven months later, she was called home unexpectedly to be with the whole family at the death of their father. She recalls, “Dad’s life as a convert had been an exemplary one.”

Patricia attended St. Jerome Elementary School in Oconomowoc and after graduation, her parents agreed to let her continue her schooling at Longwood in Chicago. Her father consented readily, but her mother wanted Patricia to really think about this important decision. Finally, both agreed to let her follow her dream of entering the convent. After two very happy years she entered the candidature in Milwaukee. The second year of her candidature, at the age of 17, she was sent to Sheboygan to teach 46 lively third graders. She said, “It was a wonderful experience.” Did this positive outlook portend the nature of the rest of her life?

On her birthday, August 11, 1946, at the age of 20, Sister Mary Milo took her first vows. By August 27, she got off the train in Marshfield just before midnight to join the St. John community and she immediately began to prepare for teaching first grade; and thus began 47 years of teaching all the grades in 13 elementary schools in Wisconsin, Upper Michigan, and Illinois.

Sister Mary Milo loved to tell the story of her ministry at Bruce-Guadalupe School in Milwaukee from 1969 to 1980. She taught 7th grade and was the principal. It was a challenge since Holy Trinity Parish School had closed because of financial difficulties, due to a changing neighborhood. The people wanted to save the school. Funds were solicited and the name was changed to reflect the donor and the Hispanic neighborhood. Sister worked with parents and community leaders to improve the curriculum and the learning techniques by listening to those involved. She carefully mentored the young

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Mary Milo McCabe



To make a memorial gift,
please visit our secure
online donation page [here](#)>

For more information,
contact info@ssndcp.org.

www.ssndcentralpacific.org



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

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
THROUGH EDUCATION

teachers who were so dedicated to keeping this school open that they found ways to live on a low salary. Some teachers even rented a room at Holy Trinity Convent, and they all went from door to door begging for money. A number of these teachers kept in close contact with her. One of them, who highly respected her, says he owes his vocation to the priesthood to her. He is Father Tom Floreck, who became a Jesuit and is teaching at the University of Detroit. He is here to help us celebrate her life today.

In 1993, Sister said yes to a call which dramatically changed the course of her ministry for the next eight years. She was asked to be on the coordinating team for our sisters at St. Mary's Nursing Home and Marian Catholic Nursing Home (later known as Havenwood). After a few years, St. Camillus Health Center and St. Ann's Rest Home were added to the list of places she visited. Many of us remember her loving presence to our sisters. During this time, she lived and worked with Sister Miriam Louise Dufour who became her very dear friend.

At the age of 83, after struggling with some serious health issues, she moved into retirement at Elm Grove. A year and a half later she joined the community of Our Lady of the Angels where she ended her days enjoying the companionship of the sisters there, reading stacks of books, playing her favorite card game, cribbage, and joining the table of Scrabble players. She flourished in this smaller setting and often spoke of her contentment.

Sister Mary Milo's wonderful personal gifts were symbolized by three rings she wore on a chain as she lay on her bed waiting for God's call home. One was the Claddagh, signifying her pride in for her Irish heritage, her love for her friends and family, and her loyalty to God. Also, around her room were a number of stuffed animals. It was very evident that she loved animals and became friends with several. One of them was Pal, a German shepherd who lived with her at Trinity-Guadalupe. He saw her safely to school every day. He even terrorized the mice in that old house to the extent that they died of heart attacks. Another animal friend was Cocoa who came to visit her a few days before she died. He spread his body over hers so lovingly, seeming to understand what his friend was going through. Her last pet was Shannon, the cat she had when she came to Elm Grove. She stayed in touch with her with the help of Shannon's caretaker.

Sister Mary Milo McCabe is survived by her brother John McCabe (Peppi), her sister Shirley Czerwinski, sisters-in-law Donna McCabe and Jeanne McCabe, nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and the SSND Community.

And so, today we say good-bye to this wonderful woman who made an art of making friends. We remember how she supported us in our own journey and laughed easily with us over the foibles of our lives. We thank you, Mary Milo, for the strong role model you have been for us in accepting life with equanimity and by making so many lives easier by the caring way you listened to them.

Sister Mary Milo wanted to bless you all with an Irish blessing which you can find in your liturgy aid. Let us pray and receive this blessing together.

*May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow.
May trouble avoid you wherever you go.*

By Sister Elise Zettel, SSND