



Birth
May 24, 1930

Baptism
June 8, 1930

Profession
Aug. 11, 1949

Death
Dec. 28, 2016

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 Carol (Mary Fatima) Schmitz, SSND

Born May 24, 1930 in Milwaukee, to Leonard and Emma (Weber) Schmitz, she was baptized Carol Joan at St. Michael's Church, Milwaukee. Carol was the second of four children. She had one older brother and two younger brothers. She recalled, "Despite the Depression of the early '30s, we had food, shelter, clothing and lots of love!"

Carol's father was a police officer and her mother worked for the telephone company. As an adult Carol was known to go out of her way to greet and thank police officers for their work and keeping people safe.

Sister Carol's aunt was a School Sister of Notre Dame and her parents both attended SSND schools. She recalled that "the joy that radiated from the Sisters was the main human factor in my vocation to religious life."

She attended St. Elizabeth for elementary school. Following her sophomore year at Messmer High School, Carol entered the SSND candidature in 1946. Received as a novice in 1948, she was given the religious name Mary Fatima, but she later returned to her baptismal name. Her first vows were professed Aug. 11, 1949. She recalled that she was blessed to have so many sisters after spending so much of her childhood praying for a younger sister in her family.

She received a bachelor's in English at Mount Mary College, Milwaukee in 1962 and earned a master's in educational psychology at the University of Minnesota in 1976.

Sister Carol served in education for 22 years, teaching at the following schools in Wisconsin: St. Patrick, Menasha, Queen of Peace, Marshfield; St. Aloysius and Queen of Heaven West Allis; St. Nicholas, Milwaukee; and St. Joseph, Green Bay. As a teacher she taught in elementary at the beginning of her teaching ministry and transitioned to upper grades and some administration.

In 1971, Carol then transitioned into developing resources for renewal and serving a variety of ministries in spiritual growth, as a community leader, and development of resources. She also served on Provincial Council.

Sister Carol said of herself "I've been here, there and all over." She served in Guam as a resource person, and she also served in Rome for several years as a community leader. Carol worked with the renewal team on wholistic programs after Vatican II.

She spent several years in Nigeria training young seminarians. Her ministry in Nigeria was one of her greatest joys. She then returned to Wisconsin and served in prayer and presence. In 2011, she moved to Our Lady of the Angels in Greenfield, Wisconsin.

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Carol Schmitz



Sister Carol was known for her love of life and sense of humor. She loved the Christmas season throughout her life and was known to celebrate a little Christmas on the 25th of each month, garnering the nickname Christmas Carol. Sister Carol's enthusiasm for life was evident during her time at Our Lady of the Angels she was at awe with nature and anyone who visited would be blessed with a smile.

Sister Carol is survived by her loving family: nephews Dwight, Dean, David, Derek, and Dale Schmitz, her niece Diane Cload, extended family members, dear friends and the SSND Community. Preceded in death are her parents Leonard and Emma, brothers Leonard, Roger and Fred Schmitz. Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Retirement Fund, c/o Resource Development, 13105 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122 or online at www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Partner/Donation.

This remembrance is compiled from SSND archival information and the eulogy written by Sister Jolene Heiden, SSND

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

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THROUGH EDUCATION