



Birth
Nov. 26, 1926

Baptism
Dec. 5, 1926

Profession
Aug. 8, 1949

Death
March 3, 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 Dolores Marie [Mary Sancta] Jehl, SSND

Born in Fort Wayne, Indiana on Nov. 26, 1926, to Leo and Elizabeth (Hooek) Jehl, she was baptized Dolores Marie at St. Peter's Church in Fort Wayne. Her father decided on this name in honor of the Blessed Virgin, even though her oldest brother, age 6, wanted to call her Agnes in honor of his favorite girlfriend. There were nine children in the family. Dolores received her elementary education at St. Peter's School, where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. As she passed from grade to grade, the sisters seemed to know her quite well because either a brother, sister, or cousin had been in the class before her. Dolores noted in her autobiography, "Our family was quite prolific."

Following eighth grade graduation, she went to Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne for four years where she had both School Sisters of Notre Dame and Sisters of Providence as her teachers. After her high school graduation, she worked as secretary in a union office for two years. A highlight from her work experience was walking in a picket line when the union at the General Electric Company was on strike.

Dolores entered the SSND candidature on Aug. 28, 1946. She was received into the novitiate on Aug. 10, 1948 and given her religious name Mary Sancta. She professed first vows on Aug. 11, 1949. In the mid-1970s, following the post-Vatican II changes, she returned to her baptismal name.

Sister Dolores received a bachelor's degree with a major in home economics and minors in social science and English at Mount Mary College, Milwaukee in 1959. She completed a master's degree in English at Loyola University, Chicago in 1969. Her second master's degree was earned in theology at St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas in 1984.

Sister Dolores ministered for 54 years as an educator. As a newly professed sister, she taught primary students at St. Agnes, Butler, Wisconsin. Her first teaching day as a professed sister made a deep impression on her since it was then she realized that explicit directions must be given to younger pupils. The morning dismissal bell rang. Sister Dolores mentioned to the first graders that that was the bell to go home. She remembered, "One little boy took me at my word and did just that. He was out the door, down the steps and running down the sidewalk almost before I realized he was out of the room."

After six years of experience in grades one to four at St. Agnes, Butler, Wisconsin she was missioned to high school where she was involved in teaching varied subjects: religion, English, home economics, typing, Latin, and even driver education. She worked with a variety of school groups: student council, National Honor Society, and, believe it or not, even served as cheerleading moderator.

Her assignments with secondary students were at St. Joseph, Appleton, Wisconsin; St. Michael, Chicago; Columbus High School, Marshfield,

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Dolores Marie Jehl



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Central Pacific Province

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
THROUGH EDUCATION

Wisconsin; St. Anthony, Detroit; Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, Indiana; and St. Lawrence Seminary, Mount Calvary, Wisconsin.

In addition to her roles in teaching and parish ministry, Sister Dolores served on a variety of committees and as an officer in both the Detroit Archdiocesan Council of Religious and the Fort Wayne Diocesan Sisters' Senate.

In 1974, she returned to Fort Wayne to be a companion to and care for her mother. While doing this, she studied and attained a Permanent Health Administrator's License for the State of Indiana in 1978. Eventually, her mother needed more care and went to St. Anne's Nursing Home near the apartment where the two of them had been living. After her mother's death she accepted a teaching position at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne.

Sister Dolores concluded her teaching career in Fort Wayne, Indiana at St. Francis College and Indiana University – Purdue University Fort Wayne. Between school assignments, Sister Dolores served in pastoral ministry at Our Lady of Good Counsel and the Latin American Pastoral Center in Detroit. She had a combined role as director of religious education and pastoral minister at St. Peter in Fort Wayne. She also served as a religious educator at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

Sister Dolores retired in 2003, remaining in Fort Wayne where she did volunteer ministry. In 2007, she joined the Notre Dame of Elm Grove community where she served through prayer and presence. In 2011, she moved to Our Lady of the Angels Convent in Greenfield, Wisconsin.

Sister Dolores Marie Jehl died on March 3, 2016 at Our Lady of the Angels Convent. She was 89 years old. She is survived by her sisters, Mary Doust and Elizabeth (Harvey) Stump; nieces and nephews; grandnieces and grandnephews; dear friends and the SSND Community.

Following are words that sisters used to describe Sister Dolores: caring, faithful, friend, generous, grateful, hospitable, intelligent, advocate, justice-seeker and risk-taker. She had a sense of humor; she was responsible and efficient – especially as secretary of the Tri-State Region's Assembly; she was somewhat a perfectionist; and she was a good cook – especially her pineapple upside-down cake.

**Pray for us, Sister Dolores Marie,
as we will for you, till we meet again in the Lord!**

*This remembrance is compiled from SSND archival information
and the eulogy presented by Sister Joan Elizabeth Bakle, SSND*