



In Loving Memory

Sister Gabriel Mary Spaeth

Sister Sister Gabriel Mary was born on May 13, 1932, in West Bend, Wisconsin, as the first girl and second child of Isadore and Lorraine Spaeth. She was baptized two days later at Holy Angels Church in West Bend, Wisconsin, and given the name Martha. During the next 20 years, four more girls and six more boys added to the joy and happiness of the family.

Gabriel Mary's father made the sacrifice of driving to Holy Angel's Catholic School each day so the entire family would have the privilege of receiving a Catholic education.

The entire family worked and played together. "Being the oldest girl, I learned to cook, sew, care for my little brothers and sisters and help my mother in general." The enjoyable summer days the entire family helped in the garden and fields. Much of the family's leisure time was spent outdoors enjoying nature.

Sister Gabriel Mary desired to be a sister since she was little. However, after graduating from eighth grade in 1946, she felt it was God's will to help with the work at home. After one year, Gabriel Mary entered the Juniorate at the former Milwaukee Motherhouse. One year later she was allowed to become a candidate. However, in June of 1948, Gabriel Mary was asked to return home because of her health. She left her belongings at the Motherhouse, "I confidently prayed that Christ would call me back to be His Bride, but adding, "Not mine, but Thy Will be done."

In June of 1950, she again donned the candidate's habit and attended college. In August 1951, Sister Gabriel Mary was sent to St. Joseph's in Appleton, Wisconsin, to teach third grade. July 21, 1952, she entered the Novitiate.

For 35 years, Sister Gabriel Mary taught students on primary, intermediate, junior and senior levels. She had one teaching assignment outside Wisconsin, at St. Mary in Galena, Illinois. Wisconsin schools where she taught were St. Joseph in Appleton, Spectrum Alternative High School and St. Anne in Milwaukee; St. Mary in Elm Grove; St. James in Mukwonago; Holy Name in Sheboygan; Our Lady of Peace in Marshfield; St. Stanislaus in Berlin and Berlin Catholic Schools in Berlin. Additionally, she was principal at St. James, St. Stanislaus, Berlin Catholic Schools and Spectrum Alternative High School.

From 1987 until 1991 she served as provincial councilor for the former SSND Milwaukee Province. Sister Gabriel Mary worked as a research associate on the Nun Study at the University of Kentucky from 1991 to 2006. She assisted the study as a consultant for one year, prior to retiring in 2007.

In 2007 Sister Gabriel Mary joined the community at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin, where she continued to minister as the coordinator of the computer lab. Sister continued to help others in many ways at Elm Grove. She typed and gave sisters the needed labels for letter writing.

continued

Birth
May 13, 1932

Baptism
May 15, 1932

Profession
July 22, 1953

Death
April 24, 2020

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

She was the energizer bunny. She organized get togethers for family as well as friends. Sister Gabriel Mary put forth her best effort as she responded to each new call. Throughout her life she gave witness to her deep faith and trust in God.

Born to Eternal Life April 24, 2020, age 87. Survived by her sisters Sr. Laura Jean SSND, Lucy (David) Bingen, Mary (Lloyd) Verhaalen, her brothers Jerome (Diane), Tony (Mary Jane), Bernard (Trish), Ronald (Helen), Richard (Judy), Sister-in-law Ruth and nieces, nephews and the SSND Community. Preceded in death by her parents Isadore and Loraine, her sister Alice Adelmeyer (Merlin) and brothers Hank (LaVerne) and Charles. A Memorial Mass and celebration of life will be planned at a later date.

By Sister Marie Rose Van Deurzen, SSND

Sister Gabriel Mary Spaeth

To make a memorial gift,
please visit our secure
online donation page
www.ssndcentralpacific.org/donate



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world
through education