



Birth
August 11, 1922

Baptism
August 13, 1922

Profession
July 17, 1941

Death
October 3, 2019

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 Lucille Heidenreich

Sister Lucille Heidenreich was born to Eternal Life on October 3, 2019, at age 97. Lucille was born to John and Margaret August 11, 1922, in West Allis, Wisconsin. Her parents were from Racine, Wisconsin. Lucille was the last child of ten children. She was baptized August 13, 1922, at Holy Assumption Church and given the name Lucille Marie. There were five boys and five girls. Her brother Francis was the second oldest and was raised with his four sisters; Mabel, Margaret, Marie and Florence. Then four boys were born around the same time as Lucille; John, Gerald, Eugene and Lawrence. The family often laughed over the fact that Francis and Lucille having been raised with the opposite sex were given the religious vocations. Francis became a Capuchin and chose the name of Thomas Aquinas, which in later years he changed to his baptismal name, Francis.

Sister's most memorable event of her childhood was at her brother's first Solemn High Mass. Father Francis explained to Lucille that she would act as his bride at the Mass as a representation of the Church and she would receive a very special blessing just as a bride does at her Wedding Mass. It was then that Lucille told her brother she wanted to be a nun. She often felt she received her vocation at that Mass. She was ten years old.

Lucille's favorite subject was music. Before she entered religious life, she had six years of piano lessons. She also played bass drum in the Drum and Bugle Corps. Although Lucille had more years in piano, she chose to major in organ. Lucille entered Notre Dame Convent in Milwaukee in 1937. Sister Mathilde Latz had a great influence upon Lucille and she helped her prepare the necessary articles required.

Lucille was a perfectionist by temperament, "I did not want to ask to be received until I could keep the candidates rule perfectly. My Reverend brother put a quick and final end to that fantasy by telling me to keep any rule perfectly was to be a saint and he had his doubts as to my degree of sainthood." Sister was received in 1940, and given the name Thomas Aquinas.

Sister taught music, academic subjects and was organist for 21 years. When Sister was missioned to Elm Grove, Wisconsin, she was trained on the job as a nurse, which she did for ten years under the supervision of Sister Miriam Sheila. Besides the duties of nursing, she developed a music therapy program with the sisters. This proved to be valuable to the sisters' physical and psychological betterment. Sister completed studies to become a Registered, Certified Music Therapist.

Much could be written about her 33 years of loving service at Notre Dame of Elm Grove in Elm Grove, Wisconsin but sister preferred to just say, "God knows all and will reward my efforts as He deems them worthy in his sight. Jesus cannot be outdone in generosity."

continued

In Loving Memory

When given the privilege to retire, Sister Lucille chose to retire at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Calvary, Wisconsin, as her brother, Father Francis, was a resident of the Villa, Mount Carmel. The saddest moment of her transfer happened two weeks before Sister was to leave for Mt. Calvary when her brother died on our Lady's Feast of the Assumption. Even though he had been ailing with a severe heart condition and was ninety one years old, the shock of his death broke sister's heart. In 2011, Sister returned to Notre Dame Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Sister was given another opportunity to teach recreation therapists the value of her music therapy program.

Sister was a loving community member who had a heart for everyone: God, family, and all who touched her life. She enjoyed the outdoors, movies, bingo, and card games. Her life was filled with praise and gratitude.

Sister summed up her life: "Without Jesus, I could have done nothing, but with His grace we have accomplished great things and Holy be His Name. What a blessing sister has been these 78 years of religious life."

She is preceded in death by her parents John & Margaret, her brothers Fr. Francis OFM Cap, Lawrence, Eugene, Gerald, John A., and her sisters, Marie Grand and Margaret Sanhuber.

By Sisters Marie Rose Van Deurzen and Christine Woyach

Sister Lucille Heidenreich

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