



In Loving Memory

Sister Marilee Ketterhagen

Sister Marilee, baptized Mildred Mary, was born to Alex and Caroline Ketterhagen in Waterford, Wisconsin. She was the sixth of ten children. She enjoyed a loving relationship with this family throughout her life.

Sister Marilee first met the School Sisters of Notre Dame when she was a junior in High School at St. Mary's School in Burlington. She entered the community after high school and was professed August 6, 1948.

She devoted the majority of her active ministry to teaching and administration at Catholic schools across Wisconsin. She began in Madison, teaching primary grades for four years at St. James. Moving back to her home Diocese of Milwaukee in 1952, she taught at St. Michael in Milwaukee for seven years, followed by one year at Lourdes High School in Oshkosh. From 1960-1966, she served as a grade school teacher and administrator at St. Peter in Beaver Dam. Sister Marilee then served as director of initial formation for the SSND congregation, both in Milwaukee and Mequon, Wisconsin. Her last two assignments in education, as a full-time grade school administrator, took her to the Wisconsin towns of Sun Prairie and Oconomowoc, where she served 11 years at Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary, and 11 years at St. Jerome, respectively.

Sister Marilee turned to congregational service in 1993, devoting herself as a local leader at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, a role she held through 1999. Over the next decade, she volunteered part-time serving hospice patients at Milwaukee Hospice Residence through 2005, and the Aurora Visiting Nurse Association through 2009. Since 2004, she has resided at Notre Dame of Elm Grove with in prayer, presence and service. Sister Marilee earned a bachelor's degree in Latin from Mount Mary College and a master's degree in education-counseling/guidance from Marquette University, both in Milwaukee.

Sister dedicated her life to ministry in the classroom. She spent a total of forty years in the elementary education and one as a secondary teacher. During that time she was a principal for twenty-two years. She had a special gift of connecting well with people she taught or met along the way. This gift led her to a special ministry of corresponding with many who touched her life. She would send over two hundred Christmas cards every year. In addition to school ministry, she was Director of Initial Formation of our Junior Sisters for two years. After an enriching yearlong sabbatical in Maggee Valley, North Carolina, she was on the leadership team for our retired sisters at Notre Dame of Elm Grove.

As she sums up her life in her autobiography she says, "I look forward to that moment when I shall walk across the threshold into the loving embrace of my God and rest securely in the very bosom of the Trinity forever and ever and ever. It's been a wonderful life."

Born to Eternal Life September 27, 2020, age 92 years. Survived by her sister Carol Brehm, nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, and the

Birth
October 31, 1927

Baptism
November 6, 1927

Profession
August 6, 1948

Death
September 27, 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

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SSND community. Preceded in death by her parents Alexander and Caroline, her brothers Arthur, Edwin, Elmer, Francis, Ralph, Richard, Robert and her sister Veronica.

By Sister Marie Rose Van Duzend, SSND

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