



In Loving Memory

Sister Mary Angeleen Brill

Sister Mary Angeleen Brill, 95, died peacefully on April 22, 2023, at Our Lady of the Angels, Greenfield, Wisconsin. She patiently awaited full union with God and her family.

Sister Mary Angeleen was born on December 6, 1927. She opened her autobiography writing, “when St. Nicholas paid his annual visit to St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1927, he had a special gift tucked away in his pack of goodies. This gift, labeled Mary Catherine, St. Nick presented to Gerhard and Angeline Brill and their children.” Sister Mary Angeleen had five older siblings and one sister that was born two years later. When Sister Mary Angeleen was five years old, the family moved to Milwaukee.

Sister Mary Angeleen attended her grade school years at St. Leo’s School, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She loved the cheerfulness and enthusiasm of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) teachers, especially Sister Valerie Rajnicek. Sister Mary Angeleen attended Messmer High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Algebra and geometry were her delight, with Latin a close second. Sister Mary Angeleen wrote, “Sister Catherine [Suelzer] invited a group of high school girls to the convent for an informal get-together with the sisters. We enjoyed seeing the sisters share fun things with us.” Although Sister Mary Angeleen planned to enter the candidature after high school, she was totally surprised when her sister Dorothy (Sister Cecily) entered two years before she did.

Sister Mary Angeleen entered the candidature August 28, 1945. As a candidate, Sister Mary Angeleen was sent to St. Alphonsus, Chicago, where she taught a class of 50 second graders. She stated, “I have always had a spot in my heart for the little children and the elderly.” She entered the novitiate on August 5, 1947, and received the name Mary Angeleen, later preferring the name, Sister Angie. After the year of novitiate, Sister Mary Angeleen spent 49 years instructing young children who touched her life in special ways. She reflected, “I also learned much from them.” During these years, Sister Mary Angeleen also visited the elderly in their homes, hospitals, and nursing homes in Illinois and Wisconsin.

Sister Mary Angeleen taught primary grades for all of her teaching years. She taught at St. Alphonsus, Chicago, beginning in 1948. In 1956, she was missioned to St. Paul in Chicago; in 1964, to St. John Nepomucene in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin; in 1976, to St. George, Kenosha, Wisconsin; in 1984, to St. Mary, Port Washington, Wisconsin; and in 1996, to St. Mary, Elm Grove, Wisconsin.

During summer vacation, Sister Mary Angeleen had the privilege of teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to Hmong and Laotian adults, who influenced her by their inherent goodness. Sister Mary Angeleen stated, “this experience gave me a taste of the physical and emotional suffering immigrants endured in their search for freedom.” After Sister Mary Angeleen’s final year of teaching in 2003, she retired at St. Mary’s Convent in Elm Grove, Wisconsin.

continued

Birth

December 6, 1927

Baptism

December 18, 1927

Profession

August 6, 1948

Death

April 21, 2023

Burial

Notre Dame of Elm Grove
Cemetery

*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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*Sister Mary Angeleen
Brill*



She tutored children in grades 1-4 and began ministry with the poor at the food pantry at St. Rose Parish, Milwaukee.

In 2004, Sister Mary Angeleen moved to Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Sister Mary Angeleen had numerous opportunities for prayer and presence to the sisters, workers and visitors. She also served her own brothers and sisters in time of need. Sister reminded herself often saying: "Normal day, let me be aware of the treasure you are."

In 2020, Sister Angie was called to join her sisters in community at Our Lady of the Angels in Greenfield, Wisconsin. She often sat with the sick and dying. Sister Mary Angeleen often shared stories about the sisters.

She is celebrating her 75th Jubilee in heaven. Sister Mary Angeleen showed how to live life to the fullest.

The funeral Mass was held, Thursday, April 27, 2023, at the Mother Caroline Chapel at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with Father Joe Haas as presider and Deacon Stanley Lowe as preacher. A prayer of remembrance preceded the funeral. Burial followed in the Elm Grove cemetery, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Sister Mary Angeleen is survived by nieces, nephews and her SSND sisters and associates. She was preceded in death by her parents, Gerhard and Angeline Bill; her sisters, Sister Cecily Brill, SSND, Helen Lowe, Joan Bryant; and her brothers, Sylvester, Francis, and Robert.

By Sister Marie Rose Van Deurzen, SSND

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