



**Birth**

**March 31, 1919**

**Baptism**

**April 13, 1919**

**Profession**

**July 28, 1938**

**Death**

**October 7, 2018**

**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

## *In Loving Memory*

### **Sister Mary Cecilius Sliger**

Sister Mary Cecilius Sliger, 99, died on Sunday, October 7, 2018, at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. She was the sixth of eight children born to John and Mary Louise (Michelsen) Sliger of Marinette, Wisconsin. On April 13, 1919, she was baptized and given the name Eunice Cecilia.

As a young child, Eunice began her education at Our Lady of Lourdes in Marinette, Wisconsin. She received Holy Communion at age seven and was confirmed at age 12. Beginning in sixth grade, Eunice began studying music from her older sister Bernadine, who had been taught music for seven years by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Eunice's love of music was genuine, so her parents also allowed her to take music lessons from the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Eunice was very devoted to her musical studies, often arising at five-thirty in the morning to practice before school. Eunice's music teacher thought her family would protest over Eunice's early morning practice regimen, but Eunice assured her teacher that "the family said they slept all the better when there was music."

When she was 15 years old and a freshman in high school, Eunice felt compelled to answer God's call to the religious life. Eunice always felt she would become a nun, even though her father teased, "a none at all." Initially, Eunice was to become a Carmelite, but her parents protested her decision when they heard some worrisome facts about Carmelite life. Eunice then decided to become a School Sister of Notre Dame. Her parents would consent but only if she received the pastor's blessing. However, the pastor of the parish at that time was new, so he refrained from telling Eunice what to do. One of Eunice's teachers, a School Sister of Notre Dame, encourage Eunice to wait a year before entering the congregation to ensure that her intentions were true and not just a passing fancy.

In 1935, when she was 16 years old, Eunice entered Notre Dame Convent School in Milwaukee. Sister Mary Cecilius recalls in her autobiography, "It was the most royal date of my life, surpassed only by my reception to novitiate at which I received the name Sister Mary Cecilius." She professed first vows on July 28, 1938.

After first profession, Sister Mary Cecilius taught music at St. Joseph in Milwaukee. In 1939, she was then called to teach music at Holy Angels in Gary, Indiana. She returned to southeast Wisconsin in 1951, where she was a music teacher at St. Leo, Milwaukee; St. George, Kenosha; St. Aloysius, West Allis; Holy Assumption, West Allis; and at St. Mary Help of Christians in West Allis. Sister Mary Cecilius also served as an organist and church musician at St. Leo, Milwaukee; St. Aloysius, West Allis, Wisconsin; and Holy Assumption, West Allis, Wisconsin. She was also a visiting instructor in voice for 10 years at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee.

Sister Mary Cecilius earned a bachelor's degree in music from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a master's degree in music from Roosevelt University in Chicago.

*continued*

# *In Loving Memory*



*Sister Mary Cecilius Sliger*



In 2006, Sister Mary Cecilius Sliger retired to Notre Dame of Elm Grove where she served in prayer and presence. She was also a member of the Holy Assumption parish community in West Allis, Wisconsin.

She reflected in her 2013 Jubilee profile, “My life as a SSND has been full of a loving God, my sisters, my family and God’s people. With God’s grace and gift of music, I ministered to many children and adults. There is a special place in my heart for all those whom I have known and cherished throughout the years.”

The funeral Mass for Sister Mary Cecilius was celebrated on Friday, October 12, at Notre Dame of Elm Grove Holy Family Chapel. The Mass was preceded by a visitation with burial at Notre Dame of Elm Grove cemetery. May Sister Mary Cecilius experience eternal joy in the awesome presence of her God!

*This remembrance was compiled from  
SSND archival information*

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