



**Birth**  
August 18, 1924

**Baptism**  
June 2, 1928

**Profession**  
August 9, 1945

**Death**  
April 6, 2019

**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 Ingrid Hamm

Sister Mary Ingrid Hamm died at Our Lady of the Angels in Greenfield, Wisconsin, Saturday, April 6, 2019. She was 94 and served as a teacher, musician, and nursing home administrator.

The funeral Mass was held April 12 at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Burial was at the Notre Dame of Elm Grove Cemetery.

Georgina Juanita was born August 8, 1924, in Ruby, Wisconsin. She was the eldest of George and Ingrid (Kohlin) Hamm's four children. George was a cheese maker; he and Ingrid built a cheese factory prior to their marriage. The couple called Georgina "Juanita" from birth, the name of one of her father's favorite songs. At 3 months, Juanita was baptized in the Lutheran faith of her mother. A year later, George moved his family to Cadott, Wisconsin, building Hillside Dairy there. Younger brother Bob was born that year, and Juanita joined the Catholic Church. "Each Sunday thereafter, we drove 13 miles to Holy Ghost Church in Chippewa Falls," Sister Ingrid remembered. "Sitting in the back seat with Bob singing songs must have driven my parents wild, but they loved me ... they put up with my fun-loving nature." Her parents taught her and Bob "the joy of working ... we learned to pitch in wherever we were needed. I remember I even helped toss 25-pound boxes of cheese onto the truck and learned to 'print' butter – besides doing 'womanly' chores."

Juanita attended grades 1 through 8 in a one-room school with 20 students and one teacher. "I was sure that I wanted to be a teacher ... I loved books and writing!" Sister Ingrid wrote. A creek nearby flooded the road just before the day of graduation and George took Juanita and her mother across the road in a boat so they could attend. While the family made plans for Juanita to attend McDonald High School, two School Sisters of Notre Dame invited them to come and see St. Mary's Academy in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Juanita was persuaded to attend and graduated in 1942. "While my friendship with Sister Jonette Ludwig contributed to my desire to join the School Sisters of Notre Dame, it was strange that this should happen. Earlier at the time of Mother Fidelis' visit I told her I was not interested in going to the convent. 'I am going to get married and have 12 children.' Mother Fidelis replied, 'Juanita, think of the number of children you could have if you became a School Sister of Notre Dame!' I was not too impressed because I believed I was in love and had found the right person for me. How foolish I was! How good God was to me."

Her parents were hard-pressed to let go of their eldest child. Juanita had a great deal of thinking and praying to do. She called her decision to enter the congregation in 1942 "a very hard one." She nevertheless stayed, calling the next few years "a very special time," then professing first vows as Sister Mary Ingrid in 1945. On her profession day, she met her baby sister Judy for the very first time. "Twenty-one years of difference in age did not hinder our relationship ... what a joy to watch her grow to womanhood, to know and love her as my own baby sister."

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Mary Ingrid Hamm*



Sister Ingrid earned a bachelor's degree in history and a certificate of theology from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee, in 1954 and 1959, respectively.

Following her first profession, she served for 25 years as a primary teacher, administrator and organist in the Wisconsin dioceses of Milwaukee and Madison. Those assignments included St. Anne, Milwaukee (1945-1950); St. Joseph, Waterloo (1950-1957 – teacher, 1957-1963 – principal); and Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary, Sun Prairie (1963-1970, teacher and organist).

Sister Ingrid served from 1970-1973 as district coordinator for the congregation in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. She returned to the classroom for three years as principal at Our Lady of Peace in Marshfield, Wisconsin. From 1976-1984, she served in administration at Notre Dame of Elm Grove's Zeitgeist community, followed by 16 years of secretarial service at Milwaukee's Maryhill Retirement Center and Sacred Heart Center.

"Life for me has been, and is, a time to laugh, love and learn," Sister Ingrid reflected in 1995. "I hope to meet God as a 'complete' person. I know He will not fail me. He has accepted me as I am and as I will become. What greater joy than to accept the fact that God accepts me!" Sister Joanne Armatowski called Sister Ingrid "a woman of love, a woman of generosity, a woman of prayer, and a woman of gratitude who loved her congregation, family, the Church and the world."

Throughout the first decade of the new millennium, Sister Ingrid continued to serve the local community in volunteer ministries while living at an SSND residence in Milwaukee. She lived with Sisters Sara Jean and Margit in the Zeitgeist Community during many of these years, remaining together until Sister Sara Jean's death. From 2012-2014, she resided at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, then moved to her final home at Our Lady of the Angels in Greenfield. Sister Joanne recalls one of the staff members there singing to Ingrid each morning, "You Are My Sunshine." Ingrid would smile; she was always grateful for the gift of each person. "The staff and fellow sisters miss Sister Ingrid very much, but her spirit lives on in the example she has given each one of us," Sister Joanne said.

*This remembrance was compiled from  
SSND archival information.*

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