



**Birth**  
May 21, 1915

**Profession**  
July 17, 1941

**Death**  
August 26, 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 Lorenzo Schuster

**M**argaret Schuster was born on May 21, 1915, on a farm near Marshall, Wisconsin. She was born to Josephine and William Schuster. Her father was from Marshall, Wisconsin, and her mother was from Alpha, Minnesota. Margaret was the firstborn child and eventually, would have eight brothers and three sisters.

Margaret started high school at Marshall High School, but her mother pulled her out to help care for her family. She took over the baking in the home. When Margaret was 18, her mother briefly moved to Minnesota to take care of her ailing father, putting Margaret was in charge of her younger siblings. Her mother returned when Margaret's younger sister, Beth, became sick and died.

Margaret had always wanted to enter the convent but couldn't leave her mother with her brothers and sisters, so she waited five years before entering. It was on September 24, 1938, at the age of 23, that she finally followed God's call to the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was professed on July 17, 1941, and was given the name Sister Mary Lorenzo.

After her profession, when her classmates left for the long cherished hope of mission work, she remained behind to serve as assistant cook in the kitchen. Two years later, Mother Superior asked Sister Lorenzo to serve at St. Anthony, Milwaukee, doing general house work.

Sister Lorenzo was there for two years and wrote about the experience, "Hope was in sight of at least being able to succeed in doing veils and wimples and acquiring a little skill in the art of baking and making the community happy." Mastering the art of baking and making the community happy is exactly what Sister Lorenzo did.

After the two years at St. Anthony, she was sent back to Notre Dame of Elm Grove (NDEG) for five years. Sister Lorenzo was then sent to St. Mary's, Port Washington, Wisconsin. While there, Sister Lorenzo earned a Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Leadership Certificate from Alverno College. Next, she went to Christ King in Wauwautosa, Wisconsin, for eight years; St. Agnes in Butler, Wisconsin, for one year; and Messmer High School in Milwaukee, for seven years.

While working with the Messmer High School, Sister Lorenzo participated in community cooking, baking and doing housework for almost 30 sisters. On July 10, 1973, Sister, S. Lorenzo finally reached her dream of finishing high school. At the age of 58, she earned her GED from Milwaukee Area Technical College— 43 years after she was pulled out of Marshall High School by her mother.

Also, while working with the Messmer High School community, she reached another dream of hers – getting a driver's license and being able to

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# *In Loving Memory*

*Sister Mary Lorenzo Schuster*

go shopping for her groceries on her own and going to visit her family in Marshall.

One of her final ministries was at Sacred Hearts, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, for 10 years. She then retired to St. John's in South Milwaukee for three years and to Mount Calvary for 16 years, where she planted rose bushes by the dozens before moving to NDEG in 2007. Sister Lorenzo was proud to become the oldest sister in the Central Pacific Province and even more excited to be the oldest sister in the United States. She celebrated her age monthly and lived to 104 years and three months.

Sister Lorenzo was also the last living participant in the Nun Study. The Nun Study is a landmark study in Alzheimer's Disease and studies of aging. Sister Lorenzo and all who continued the ministry of education in death, donated their brain to the Nun Study.

Sister Lorenzo Schuster was born to Eternal Life on August 26, 2019, at age 104. She is survived by her brothers, Henry (Alice) Schuster and James (Margaret) Schuster; her sister Ann Spahn; sister-in-law Jean Schuster; nieces and nephews; and the SSND Community. Preceded in death by her parents, William and Josephine; her brothers Norbert, Robert, Lawrence, Bernard, Joseph; and her sister Beth.

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**School Sisters  
of Notre Dame**  
Central Pacific Province

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD  
THROUGH EDUCATION