



Birth
Oct. 16, 1923

Baptism
Oct. 21, 1923

Profession
July 29, 1943

Death
May 25, 2016

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

In Loving Memory

Sister Mary Virgene Pable, SSND

Born Oct. 16, 1923 in Oshkosh Wisconsin, to Anton and Jennie (Hable) Pable, she was baptized Marie Therese at St. Vincent Church, Oshkosh. This name was chosen in honor of the Little Flower, Therese Martin who was beatified that year. Marie had two older brothers and two older sisters, and was nicknamed Babe. Even when three more siblings were born, the name stuck. She was still called Babe years later by her relatives.

Marie noted that her mother and father, two brothers and five sisters formed one big, happy family and were very close. – “We prayed, worked and played in a happy atmosphere.” She attended school at St. Vincent’s from first through ninth grades. Marie was helped and guided by the example of her parents and the School Sisters of Notre Dame to “realize more and more that I too should be guided to do things in the right manner, and that what is worth doing at all, is worth doing well.”

Her second grade SSND teacher made a great impression upon Marie. This sister won the hearts of the children because of her simple, gentle and quiet manner. Marie practiced a number of devotions, especially to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Little Flower but she said it was years after receiving confirmation that she cultivated an interior devotion to the Holy Spirit and gained a deeper understanding and appreciation of the gifts of the Spirit.

Marie’s older sister, Margaret, known as Sister Mary Ronald, professed her vows with SSND in 1937. Following Marie’s tenth grade year at St. Peter in Oshkosh, she entered the SSND candidature in 1940 at the former motherhouse in Milwaukee where she completed high school. At reception into the novitiate July 28, 1942, Marie was given the religious name, Mary Virgene. In the brief autobiography written as a novice, she wrote, “My life was ordinary and simple, I have heard now more than every that ‘A saint is one who does his ordinary duties extraordinarily well.’”

Her profession of first vows was July 29, 1943. She said, “My dear ones rejoiced with me, and participated in my happiness.” She completed a bachelor’s degree in education at Mount Mary College, Milwaukee in 1960.

Sister Mary Virgene ministered in education for 35 years. She taught students in grades 1 through 3 at schools in Illinois and Wisconsin. Her teaching assignments in Chicago were at St. Alphonsus, Santa Maria Incoronata, Santa Lucia and St. Joan De La Salle. In Wisconsin, she taught at Holy Angels, West Bend; St. Joseph, Oconto; St. Dominic, Brookfield; St. John Kanty, Milwaukee; Holy Cross, Mount Calvary; and St. Nicholas, Freedom.

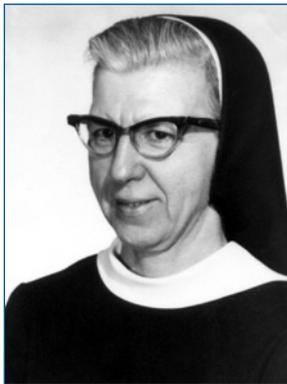
Though her first obedience to go to St. Alphonsus, Chicago brought about fear regarding the large mission, after a month or so, she felt at home. Sister Mary Virgene recounted how her ministry with children – first Communion preparation, teaching religion classes every day plus providing CCD instructions brought about many blessings.

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Mary Virgene Pable



She appreciated visiting Rome in 1986 with her profession class. In her free time, Sister Mary Virgene enjoyed watching baseball and football games; happy times, including polka music. It was said that her dancing was good enough to earn a spot on “Dancing with the Stars!”

When she left teaching, Sister Mary Virgene did community service for 11 years at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Convent in Mount Calvary. She retired in 1989 and continued to live at Our Lady of Mount Carmel until 2012 when she moved to the Notre Dame of Elm Grove community, where she continued her ministry of prayer and presence.

On the occasion of her 70th anniversary as a School Sister of Notre Dame, she reflected on her religious life. “We all have an inner feeling of how our lives could be, if we would always be in touch with our heavenly Father. God is great and he loves us!” She also said, “These words are constantly before me – kindness and understanding of myself and all the people. Another quality is patience. How much that is needed today! I am grateful, happy and proud to have had so many years with our wonderful sisters.”

Sister Mary Virgene Pable died May 25, 2016 at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Wisconsin. She was 92. She is survived by her sisters Dolores Pable and Frances (George) Miller, nieces, nephews, cousins, SSND Community and dear friends.

Her wake service and Mass of Christian burial were celebrated at Holy Family chapel, Notre Dame of Elm Grove on May 31, the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The joy Mary and Elizabeth experienced as they met caused Elizabeth to call out in joyous wonder. Mary’s response remains for all time. “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord. Holy is his name.” We praise you, God, and thank you for the gift of Sister Virgene. Holy is your name, forever!

This remembrance is compiled from SSND archival information and the eulogy presented by Sister Joan Emily Kaul, SSND

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