



# *In Loving Memory*

## Sister Mercita Batog

Sister Mary Mercita Batog died at Our Lady of the Angels in Greenfield, Wisconsin, Friday, June 14, 2019. She was 100 and a former teacher, tutor and volunteer.

The funeral Mass was held on June 18, 2019 at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Burial was at the Notre Dame of Elm Grove Cemetery.

Dorothy Batog was the seventh of her parents' 11 children. She was born December 22, 1918, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Stanley and Mary Priscilla (Evert) Batog. Stanley and Mary Priscilla were God-fearing immigrants from Poland, hard-working and industrious. They instilled their love for God in their children. Stanley was a wood-finisher, creating fine indoor furniture, as well as porch gliders and teeter totters for the children. Mary Priscilla was a seamstress and sewed all her children's clothing and household linens, many from bleached flour sacks.

Near Christmas one year, when Dorothy was 7 or 8-years-old and had the measles, her mother woke her from a deep sleep. "Our house is on fire!" The little girl was scooped up into her mother's arms and carried through the snow to her grandmother's house down the street. Tragically, two of her sisters couldn't be rescued. The family lived with their grandparents for about a month before moving back home.

Dorothy completed two years of high school at Catholic Central, taught by the Dominican Sisters. In late 1935, she said goodbye to her parents, caught a ferry to Muskegon, and presented herself to the Sisters in Milwaukee to enter the Candidature. In late 1937, Dorothy was given her religious name. "Mercita" comes from the Latin word "misericordia," which means "mercy" – "pity of the heart." Sister Mercita researched other meanings of her name so that she could live her life well and true to her name. She professed first vows in 1938. "God is so good!" she would often exclaimed. "I am moved with awe and gratitude for this gift of life."

She earned a bachelor's degree in education from the former Mount Mary College, Milwaukee. "When I first opened my eyes to the things of this world ... I don't know whether I couldn't make up my mind to stay or whether my parents couldn't make up their mind to keep me," Dorothy later jested about her birth. Dorothy was educated by the SSNDs at Sacred Heart School in her hometown. Her favorite teacher was Sister Orata who taught her first-graders the importance of projecting their voice. "That served me well on different occasions," Sister Mercita later remembered.

Following her first profession, Sister Mercita served for 40 years as a primary teacher in Catholic schools across the Midwest. Her earliest assignments were in Wisconsin, with one Illinois post, and included: St. Francis, De Pere (1938-1944); St. Francis Xavier, Green Bay (1944-1948);

Birth  
December 22, 1918

Baptism  
December 22, 1918

Profession  
August 9, 1945

Death  
June 14, 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

*continued*

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*Sister Mercita Batog*



Sacred Heart, Appleton (1948-1949); St. Margaret, Chicago (1950-1958); St. Agnes, Butler (1958-1961); and Mt. Carmel (Holy Cross), Mount Calvary (1961-1964). Sister Mercita's later assignments included: St. Stanislaus, Michigan City, Indiana (1964-1965); St. Mary, Menasha, Wisconsin (1965-1968); St. Isidor in her hometown of Grand Rapids (1968-1972); Saints Peter & Paul, Merrillville, Indiana (1972-1973); St. Mary's, Grand Rapids (1973-1974); and St. Adalbert, Grand Rapids (1974-1978).

She served in year-long assignments as a receptionist and secretary at Holy Trinity-Guadalupe in Milwaukee, followed by St. Constance in Chicago. Sister Mercita returned to the classroom at St. Gabriel in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, from 1980-1984. She moved to the Detroit area, serving as a teacher's aide and tutor at St. Mary in Alma. In 1986, she relocated to Milwaukee, undertaking community service and volunteering, which she continued through 1997. Sister Mercita then moved to Notre Dame of Elm Grove near Milwaukee, where she resided in prayerful presence and loving witness through June of 2019.

Those close to her say Sister Mercita "aged gracefully through the years, deepening her relationship with her God who helped her reach and celebrate her 100th birthday ... and celebrate she did!" One secret to her joy and longevity, they say, was sister's "sweet tooth." She loved candy, especially chocolate.

*This remembrance was compiled from  
SSND archival information.*

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