



## *In Loving Memory*

### Sister Michael Marie Laux

Sister Michael Marie, the youngest of the Laux family, was born in Menasha, Wisconsin, on November 6, 1930. Her parents, Alex and Apolonia Hardt Laux, named her Mary Jane. It must have been quite a religious family since four of the children went on to religious life. Harold (Harry), the first born, married Rita, and had nine children. Next was Donald who became a priest in the Green Bay Diocese, then Gloria Mae (Sister Marie LeClerc) left home to also become a School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). The fourth one, Bob, became a Benedictine Brother named Michael. Her mother died when Sister Michael Marie was on her first mission and her father eventually married her mother's sister. She, too, died long before he did.

Birth  
November 6, 1930

Baptism  
November 16, 1930

Profession  
July 30, 1951

Death  
December 14, 2020

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

Her school years were at St. Mary, Menasha, Wisconsin, for grades one to 12. She entered the convent the summer of her graduation and went on to get a Bachelor's Degree in English, and eventually got a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling while serving in Guam.

Sister Michael Marie's assignments were in various aspects of teaching. She began with middle school teaching at Holy Trinity School in Milwaukee, for five years and then Holy Name School, Sheboygan, Michigan, for six years. Then she was assigned to Columbus High School in Marshfield, Wisconsin, teaching English for just one year when she was asked to go to Guam and work as a missionary. She had hoped to do that one day and was glad to serve in that capacity. She worked at various schools, in Guam, as secondary teacher for 11 years. During that time, she and another Guamanian sister toured other islands in the Carolinas. This was the first time the community looked beyond Guam for missionary work. She returned to Wisconsin and was assigned to teach at Lourdes High School in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where she taught for six years. Then she responded to a request for sisters to work in Alaska. She reached out eagerly and was missioned to Alakunak for three years and then to Emmonak for five years working as a director of religious education. She said that it was subsistence living with the Eskimos and birthing the Church in the area.

At 59 years of age, she answered the call to go to Kenya where she served for 16 years. She started in the diocese of Kisumu as secondary teacher for four years. Then came her biggest challenge, she was to start a residence school for girls in Kisii. That meant building the school and hiring people to do the work. She says, "None of us had ever done this before and so, we just started."

She returned to the states at the age of 75. She was still ready to give more so, she was invited by Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, to tutor in the Student Success Center. This meant her working one-on-one with struggling students. She did this for 13 years.

Sister Michael Marie was not only a dedicated teacher, but she was also a committed community member. Life was not only a serious function, but she balanced it with a very good sense of humor. She knew how to bond with others as they lived out a life of prayer and joy, supporting others who needed her. She had just celebrated 90 years of a life well-lived for the sake of the mission when she received her final call home. Survived by her sister, Sister

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Marie Le Clerc, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and the SSND community. Preceded in death by her parents Alex And Apolonia; her brothers, Brother Michael OSB, Reverend Donald and Harold. The funeral for Sister Michael Marie was December 30, at Notre Dame of Elm Grove followed by burial in the Elm Grove cemetery.

*By Sister Elise Zettle, SSND*

*Sister Micheal Marie Laux*

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