

In Loving Memory

Sister Miriam Cecile Ross

Sister Miriam Cecile Ross, died peacefully on June 8, 2023, at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She patiently awaited full union with God.

In Monroe, Wisconsin, on July 18, 1933, Teresa (O'Donnell) and Clayton Ross welcomed their third child, Colleen. Colleen was baptized at St. Victor, Monroe, Wisconsin on August 6, 1933. Colleen had two brothers, Francis, (6 years older) and James (4 years older). When Colleen was nine, her sister Cathleen was born.

Colleen attended a four-year-old kindergarten. She attended the public school in Brodhead, Wisconsin. Colleen had piano lessons from Mrs. Arline Berkeley. She came to know herself as a pianist and musician by the age of nine. Early on Colleen was performing at events around town. By the time she began high school, she was asked by some mothers if she would teach their children. Colleen taught a class of twenty after school and on Saturdays. She had recitals with them at the Congregational Church. During Colleen's senior year in high school, a graduate from Mount Mary College came to teach Latin in the high school. Ruth invited Colleen to visit Mount Mary College (now University) during the Christmas break. Sister Paulina St. Armour met them at the door and introduced Colleen to Sister Edmund Burke and Sister Mary Louis Downey from the music department. Colleen chose to attend Mount Mary College (now University) and was deeply inspired by the sisters and knew she wanted to be one of them. Sister Mary Louis worked with her parents for the next year and Sister Mary Edmund helped Colleen with the preparation needed to enter.

Colleen entered the postulancy on August 30, 1953, at the Motherhouse in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The following year, on June 29, 1954, Colleen received the name, Miriam Cecile and began her year of novitiate. July 12, 1955, Sister Miriam pronounced her first vows and her final vows on July 11, 1961, at the Motherhouse in Mequon, Wisconsin.

Sister Miriam Cecile earned a bachelor's degree in piano and music therapy from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1957, and a master's degree in music theory from Chicago Conservatory College, Chicago, Illinois in 1964. In 1991, she received a master's degree in Christian Spirituality from Mundelein College, in Chicago, Illinois.

Sister Miriam Cecile's ministry experiences began as a music teacher at St. Peter & Paul in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. From June 1971 until August 1977, Sister Miriam Cecile was the director of Initial Formation at the Motherhouse in Mequon, Wisconsin. From August 1977 until June 1980, she served as the Program Director for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. In 1983, Sister returned to her family home to care for her father and work part-time as a spiritual director. Following his death in 1984, she became a full-time spiritual director. She was engaged in this ministry of companionship with their God for forty years. She moved to Trinity Woods on the campus of Mount Mary University in February 2023. She passed away peacefully on June

continued



Birth
July 18, 1933

Baptism
August 6, 1933

Profession
July 12, 1955

Death
June 8, 2023

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

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8, 2023, at Trinity Woods.

Sister Miriam Cecile believes that because SSND is a world community the world has become her home. Through her ministry of spiritual direction, she was able to visit and work with sisters throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Guam and Japan. Sister Miriam Cecile felt blessed to walk with people in their inner journey. She truly witnessed the wonders of Divine Love and grace in each life.

She was faithful in living the charism and remarked, “I marvel at how the Spirit has translated our charism into each culture and language.” She also lived and loved Scripture: “This is what Yahweh asks of you, only this, to act justly, to love tenderly, to walk humbly with your God.”

Her green burial was in the Notre Dame of Elm Grove cemetery, June 9, 2023. The funeral Mass was held June 20, 2023, at St. Jude the Apostle Church, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin with Father Charles Conley as presider. A prayer of remembrance preceded the funeral. Sister Miriam Cecile is survived by her sister, Cathleen Philbin and sisters-in-law, Donna Pratt and Jody Ross. She was preceded in death by her parents, Clayton and Teresa and her brothers, Dr. Francis Ross and James Ross.

By Marie Rose Van Deurzen, SSND

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