



## *In Loving Memory*

### Sister Miriam Louise Dufour

Sister Miriam Louise Dufour, 74, died Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at Elmbrook Memorial Hospital, Brookfield, Wisconsin. She was the youngest of three children born to Louis and Priscilla (Lafave) and grew up outside of Escanaba, Michigan. Her father was a foreman at a lumber company and her mother a homemaker.

Miriam attended Wells Public Grade School and Holy Name High School in Escanaba. It was at Holy Name that she first met SSNDs and felt called to join them. She later reflected, “The desires and hopes of becoming a religious remained in my mind. I have to admit at times during my senior year I tried to forget about the idea but yet it was always there.”

On August 19, 1962, Miriam entered the postulate at Notre Dame of the Lake in Mequon, Wisconsin. In looking ahead to her reception as a novice, Miriam shared, “What a religious should possess and acquire as her outstanding quality can be summed up in one word: love. I believe this is the one thing a religious should acquire because it is this love which will support all other virtues.” Miriam made her first profession on July 30, 1964, and her final vows on July 27, 1969.

Sister Miriam wanted to become a nurse, so she went to Sacred Heart School for Practical Nursing. She received her LPN license in 1965. She later attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in communications in May 1983.

From 1965-1976, Sister Miriam worked as a nurse for Notre Dame of Elm Grove. She went on to open Notre Dame House, an affirmation community, and served as a co-director for three years. She later served as a nurse for the Foot Health Center and for the podiatry clinic at St. Anthony Hospital, both in Milwaukee.

In 1990, Sister Miriam was diagnosed with a rare form of breast cancer and as a result, endured a difficult treatment regimen. Fortunately, she recovered and went on to serve as a volunteer coordinator for Marian Catholic Home and St. Mary’s Nursing Home. Starting in 1998, Sister Miriam became a rehabilitation coordinator, serving at Marian Catholic Center, St. Ann Rest Home, St. Camillus Health Center and St. Mary’s Nursing Home. She retired in 2001.

During her retirement, Sister Miriam, along with Sister Milo McCabe, SSND, provided child care to a baby for two years. Sister Miriam also enjoyed decorating, floral arranging, planning parties and discussing politics. She was also an avid pet lover, caring for many cats and dogs over the years.

Among Miriam’s many gifts was her ability to listen well and provide excellent feedback. She successfully used the skills she gained from working on her bachelor’s degree in communications, whether she spoke with someone on the phone or face-to-face. She seemed to know exactly the right questions to ask.

**Birth**  
November 19, 1943

**Baptism**  
December 5, 1943

**Profession**  
July 30, 1964

**Death**  
February 21, 2018

**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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A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Miriam was held on Monday, February 26, 2018. Reverend Joseph Lubrano, SDS, a friend of Sister Miriam's, was the presider. Burial was at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Sister Miriam was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Jerry, her niece, Kelly, her nephew, Paul, and her good friend, Sister Mary Milo McCabe, SSND. She is survived by her sister, Mary Mears, her sister-in-law, Mary Lou, and her nieces and nephews.

*This remembrance is compiled from SSND archival information  
and the eulogy written by Sister Marcie Solms, SSND*

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