



In Loving Memory

Sister Theresa (Mary Rosewitha) Palibicki

Sister Theresa Palibicki, 91, died peacefully on Monday, October 17, 2022, at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She patiently awaited full union with God and her family.

On October 7, 1931, Frank and Frances Palibicki welcomed their seventh child, Theresa. Theresa was baptized a week later, October 18, 1931, at St. Casimir Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two years later, the family was blessed with another girl, making the family a total of five girls and three boys. When Theresa's aunt died leaving behind seven children, Theresa's mother offered to take them in, so the family increased to fifteen children.

Theresa attended St. Casimir's School, Milwaukee, and was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, (SSND). In 1941, Theresa's sister, Ruth, became a Missionary Servant of the Holy Ghost, in Techny, Illinois, changing her name to Sister Jeanmarie. Theresa was only in third grade and saw how grief stricken her parents were when her sister moved far away. She told them not to feel bad because when she grew up, she would stay near home and enter the SSND convent on Milwaukee Street. Theresa made her First Communion May 24, 1941, and received the sacrament of Confirmation in 1942.

Theresa wanted to enter the convent after eighth grade, however, her father asked her to wait until she completed high school. Theresa and her mother made a Sorrowful Mother Novena together in 1947 and on July 27, at the close of the novena, Theresa was given permission by her mom to enter the convent. Theresa entered on August 31, 1947, even though she would only be sixteen in October. She spent three years as a candidate. On July 25, 1950, Theresa was received and given the name, Sister Mary Rosewitha, in honor of Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary.

Sister Theresa taught primary grades for her first 20 years. She was first missioned to St. Isadore, Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1960, she came back to Wisconsin and taught at St. Stanislaus, Milwaukee for 6 years. In 1966, she went to St. Leonard, Muskego for 3 years and in 1969 was missioned to St. Casimir, in Milwaukee. In 1971, Theresa taught primary grades in Milwaukee at St. Vincent de Paul, Milwaukee and then served there as principal for 2 more years. In 1974, she was missioned to St. Luke, Brookfield. where she served as principal for 11 years. She developed a lasting friendship with some of the teachers who visited her at least twice a year. Her next mission was Holy Assumption, West Allis, Wisconsin, where she served as principal for 11 years. Sister Theresa ministered as a principal for a total of 23 years. In 1995, she went to St. Barbara/Holy Spirit in Milwaukee as a primary teacher. In 1999, after completing her years teaching and administering in schools, Sister Theresa ministered to the sisters at Havenwood nursing home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After remodeling was complete at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin to accommodate sisters in skilled care, Theresa helped them pack and move to Notre Dame of Elm Grove.

Birth
October 7, 1931

Baptism
October 18, 1931

Profession
July 31, 1951

Death
October 17, 2022

Burial
Notre Dame of Elm Grove

*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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Rosewitha) Palbicki*



After ministering at Havenwood, Sister Theresa cared for her elderly sister, and her handicapped daughter, Nadine. Sister Theresa lived with Sister Marianne Siegel while ministering to her family. Theresa's sister, Rosemarie, Theresa, and Nadine cared for each other in loving ways. After Rosemarie suffered a stroke, Theresa cared for Nadine as best she could.

In December 2018, Sister Theresa was hospitalized and received therapy at Clement Manor, in Greenfield, Wisconsin. Following her recovery, in February 2019, Theresa formed a community at Notre Dame of Elm Grove. Sister Theresa still sent letters to the family to let them know where Nadine was living and how her sister Rosemarie was doing at the nursing home. In December 2021, Theresa moved to Sophia Hall at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She served as the floor contact person for the sisters. Sister Theresa did everything with her loving heart.

On Monday morning, October 17, 2022, Sister Theresa entered heaven.

The funeral Mass for Sister Theresa Palbicki was held, Friday, October 21st at the Mother Caroline Chapel at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee with Father Richard Mirsberger as president. A prayer of remembrance preceded the funeral. Burial followed in the Notre Dame of Elm Grove cemetery, Elm Grove, Wisconsin. She is survived by her sister Rosemarie, her niece Nadine, nieces, nephews, cousins, and the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Frances, her sisters, Sister Jean Marie, Alice Dick, Lorraine Sarnowski and her brothers, Edward, George, and Ralph.

By Sister Marie Rose Van Deurzen, SSND

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