

In Loving Memory

Sister M. Rose Sharon Perczynski, SSND



Birth
July 27, 1932

Baptism
September 19, 1932

Profession
July 30, 1951

Death
February 24, 2013

Burial
Holy Cross Cemetery
Grand Rapids, Michigan

*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

Marianne Perczynski was the eldest of two daughters born to Stanley and Mary (Juchniewicz) Perczynski. She enjoyed happy and eventful years with her parents and sister Bernice in their Grand Rapids, Michigan home.

At the age of six, Marianne began her elementary education at Sacred Heart School in Grand Rapids which was staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. After her First Holy Communion she was more and more attracted to the sisters and the idea of joining the community. At the end of eighth grade, she made her “final” decision, suddenly and to the surprise of all to become a sister. On September 11, 1946, she entered the SSND Juniorate and attended Academy of Our Lady in Chicago, for her first two years of high school. Her entrance, as a candidate was September 5, 1948. She moved to the motherhouse in Milwaukee, where she completed her high school studies. As a novice, she received her religious name, Sister Mary Rose Sharon. She professed first vows on July 30, 1951 and perpetual vows on July 30, 1957. Sister Rose Sharon earned a bachelor’s degree from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, in 1964 and a master’s degree in education from Marygrove College, Detroit, in 1971.

As a candidate, she was called to serve as a teacher of primary grades at Sacred Heart in Appleton, Wis. in 1949. Her first assignment as a sister was at St. Nicholas in Freedom, Wis. in 1951. She returned to Sacred Heart in 1953 to teach sixth grade and music. As a youngster, Marianne used to follow a classmate home and listen to her practice the piano. When her mother learned this, she insisted that the family get a piano so Marianne could take lessons. Her early love of music helped prepare her for assignments teaching music classes and playing the organ at church. The next years were spent at various missions in Michigan and Indiana. In 1970, she was called to be principal at St. Stanislaus in Michigan City, Ind. and in 1975 was transferred to St. Adalbert in Grand Rapids. In 1979, she served as an 8th grade teacher in Port Washington, Wis. and then as principal at St. John Kanty in Milwaukee. Sister Rose Sharon also served as assistant principal and director of religious education at St. Vincent in Fort Wayne, Ind. Upon leaving school and parish education in 1998, she began a new ministry in pastoral care for nursing homes in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Sister Rose Sharon lived out You Are Sent in her many years of service. This was especially evident in her love of children and commitment to quality education as an administrator.

Because of declining health, she retired in June 2005 and took residence at St. Mary Living Center in Grand Rapids. It was noted by many observers that she ministered to those around her with a sense of humor and a ready smile. She made sure people knew that she was a School Sister of Notre Dame. She even proudly exhibited a doll dressed in the 1963 habit. Her identification as an SSND was important to Sister Sharon Rose because the Dominican Sisters have a motherhouse in Grand Rapids and the Mercy Sisters served there.

continued

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*Sister M. Sharon Rose
Perczynski*



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Sister enjoyed celebrating life and those who knew her said she always brought “delicious” sweets to gatherings and parties. Her niece fondly recalled her aunt bringing games for them to play when she visited.

In June 2011, Sister Sharon Rose celebrated her 60th Jubilee. Unable to travel to Milwaukee, a Mass was celebrated with Father Eugene Golas, a family friend, and several SSNDs who provided the music. It was a very special occasion for sister and her family.

For her funeral liturgy, the following quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson was used on the prayer card. It was one of her favorites.

Success

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

Sister M. Rose Sharon Perczynski is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Bernice and Donald Luxford; niece, Sharon and Ed Lindberg; great-nephew and niece, Eddie and Brittany and Jessica and Austen Tenhopen; great-great-niece and nephew, Sidalee and Mason; aunt, Jean Jurchniewicz; many cousins; and the SSND Community. She was preceded in death by her parents, Stanley and Mary Perczynski; and her nephew, Dennis Luxford.

We appreciate Sister Rose Sharon’s aspiration to the success which Emerson described. We are grateful for all the blessings sister brought through her life, ministry and prayer. May she enjoy the reward of eternal life and continue to be an intercessor for us.

By Phyllis Marie Grzeczka, SSND