



**Birth**  
October 2, 1931

**Baptism**  
October 25, 1931

**Profession**  
July 22, 1953

**Death**  
March 2, 2025

**Burial**  
Notre Dame of Elm Grove  
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

## *In Loving Memory*

### Sister Aloyse Hessburg

Sister Aloyse Hessburg, 93, died peacefully on Sunday, March 2, 2025, at Our Lady of the Angels, Greenfield, Wisconsin. She had patiently awaited full union with God.

In Minneapolis, Minnesota, on October 2, 1931, Helen and Aloysius welcomed their fourth child, who they named Joanne Therese. Joanne already had a brother, Philip, and two sisters, Helen and Marguerite, waiting for her. Joanne's arrival completed the family, and was baptized October 25, 1931, at St. Helena Church in Minneapolis.

Joanne attended St. Helen's parish school in Minneapolis for several years and then the family moved to Milwaukee, where she finished her grade school education at St. Sebastian's.

Joanne received her high school education at Messmer High School in Milwaukee and then attended Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee for a year.

Joanne entered the postulancy on August 23, 1950, in Milwaukee. On July 21, 1952, she received the name, Mary Aloyse. On July 22, 1953, she pronounced first vows, and then her final vows July 22, 1959.

Sister Aloyse's ministry experience began in 1951 as a third-grade teacher at St. Peter in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. In 1953, she was sent to teach at St. Boniface, Milwaukee. In 1957, she taught home economics and ninth grade at St. Joseph, Appleton, Wisconsin. The next year, she was missioned to St. Stanislaus Kostka in Chicago, where she continued to teach home economics, as well as biology and art.

Sister Aloyse returned to Mount Mary College (now University), completing her studies and earning a bachelor's degree in home economics in 1961.

In 1962, Sister Aloyse was transferred to Mount Mary College (now University) to assist the clothing and textiles teacher. Around this time, Mount Mary decided to begin a fashion program, and Sister Aloyse was appointed to lead it. Of the time she wrote, "My transfer to Mount Mary College as a faculty member required my earning a master's degree at Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia. Unbeknown to me, Sister John Francis, president of Mount Mary had determined that when I returned to the college, I would begin the fashion design major." She did achieve her master's degree in clothing and fine arts from Drexel Institute of Technology, Philadelphia, in 1965.

Upon her return to Mount Mary College (now University), and for some 50 years thereafter, Sister Aloyse focused her talents, creativity and many gifts to

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Aloyse Hessburg*



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establish and expand the nation's first four-year fashion program. The program started small, but with Sister Aloyse's hard work and dedication, would grow, gaining interest and notoriety in the industry. She built connections with designers, buyers and manufacturers and introduced her students to the runways of such fashion-forward cities as Chicago, New York and Paris. She had the idea for a student fashion show, which ultimately evolved into an annual event which still takes place today. Always a knowledgeable and encouraging presence to her students and their efforts, she had professional achievements of her own, including accolades for designing the mother of the groom dress worn at a White House wedding in 1967.

In 1975, Sister Aloyse was recognized for her leadership and significant contributions to fashion with the Gimbels Fashion Forum Award.

She was an associate professor at Mount Mary University for 43 years before retiring in 2008. She then served as the executive director for Friends of Fashion, an organization whose members help support the college's Fashion Archive (formerly known as the Historic Costume Collection). The Fashion Archive is a one-of-a-kind collection of thousands of garments and accessories, which date from the mid-1700s to present day, and run the gamut of everyday items to high fashion and couture pieces.

In 2013, she received the Gold Needle Award from Mount Mary University in recognition of her commitment to fashion excellence, alongside her five decades of steadfast dedication to the school, its fashion design program and students. She remained an inspiring presence to the university until 2018.

In January of 2022, Sister Aloyse was missioned to Our Lady of the Angels in Greenfield, Wisconsin.

As an educator, Sister Aloyse taught women to be strong. She was an educator in all that she was and did and she continually chose ways of living and serving that called to growth.

Her funeral Mass was held Monday, March 10, 2025, at the Mother Caroline Chapel at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee, with Father John Czyzynski, SCJ as president. A prayer of remembrance preceded the funeral. Burial followed in the Elm Grove cemetery.

Sister Aloyse is survived by nieces, nephews, cousins, and the SSND community. She was preceded in death by her parents, Helen and Aloysius; her brother, Philip and her sisters, Marguerite Fridl and Mary Hele Burke.

She shared during her 60th Jubilee, "Each person whom I meet, spend time with or catch a glance in passing is an encounter with God. God's presence is worthy of my time and attention. Every encounter is with God's creation and LOVE.

*By Sister Marie Rose Van Deurzen*