



Birth
March 23, 1935

Baptism
July 23, 1944

Profession
July 12, 1955

Death
September 12, 2024

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

In Loving Memory

Sister Laurine Anne Luft

Sister Laurine Anne Luft, 89, died peacefully on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She had patiently awaited full union with God.

On March 23, 1935, in Hermansville, Michigan, Henry and Della Luft welcomed their tenth child, Shirley. Shirley was baptized July 23, 1944, at St. Francis Xavier in Spalding, Michigan.

Shirley's large family included a dozen siblings, Mayadore, Dorothy, Melvin, Margaret, Gordon, Sylvia, Lawrence, Sally, Elmer, Clifford, Howard and Mildred. This family of fifteen enjoyed life.

Shirley received her education at Powers Spalding in Spalding, Michigan. As there were no Catholic schools in the area, she and her siblings attended catechetical instruction over the summer break instead. Over the course of these lessons, she would eventually be taught by some School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), and their example drew her to the idea of becoming a sister. On August 30, 1953, she entered the community in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The following year, on June 29, 1954, Shirley received the name Laurine Anne and began her year of novitiate. On July 12, 1955, she pronounced her first vows, and then her final vows in Mequon, Wisconsin, on July 11, 1961.

Sister Laurine Anne earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee, in 1965, and a master's degree in school administration from University of Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, June 17, 1971.

Sister Laurine Anne's ministry experiences began in 1957 as a teacher. She taught second through sixth grades at St. Joseph, Milwaukee, for two years, St. Nicholas, Milwaukee, for four years, and then over to St. Mary, Menasha, Wisconsin, for nine years. She then studied for the two years to earn her master's degree. Following this, she taught for one year at Holy Family in Marinette, Wisconsin.

After these years of dedicated teaching and studies, her ministry journeyed across several different paths via a variety of short-term assignments, followed by a time of recuperation at Notre Dame of the Lake in Mequon. She was school supervisor in the Marquette Diocese for two years and worked in Lansing, Michigan, for six months for the organization, Just World.

continued

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She also spent several years in service to the SSND community as both a nursing aide and then as a member of the clerical staff for the Notre Dame Health Care Center in Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Elm Grove, Wisconsin.

In 1987, Sister Laurine Anne returned to Milwaukee and discovered her gift of serving the poor. She volunteered for eight years at Casa Maria, a Catholic Worker community welcoming homeless women and families. From there, she served as an assistant director of the liaison office for patient affairs at Milwaukee County Mental Health. She would advance to the role of director for this same office in 1999, and remain there until 2003. From 2004-2009, she served at Delphi House, a nonprofit organization that provides shelter for children, where she ministered to children with HIV.

On May 14, 2009, she joined the Notre Dame of Elm Grove community in prayer and presence, where she enjoyed visits by classmates.

Sister Laurine Anne did everything with a kind heart and patience. She was faithful in living and giving service to the poor.

The funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at the Mother Caroline Chapel at Trinity Woods, Milwaukee, with Father Leonard Barbian as president. A prayer of remembrance preceded the funeral. Burial followed in the Elm Grove cemetery. She is survived by nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Della; her sisters, Mayadore, Dorothy, Margaret, Sylvia, Sally and Mildred; and her brothers, Melvin, Gordon, Lawrence, Elmer, Clifford and Howard.

By Sister Marie Rose Van Deurzen, SSND

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