



Birth
July 2, 1937

Baptism
July 11, 1937

Profession
July 17, 1957

Death
April 22, 2016

Burial
Notre Dame of
Elm Grove Cemetery
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 Mary Anthony Clare Rebarchik, SSND

Born in Beaver, Wisconsin on July 2, 1937, to Anthony and Clara (Chucka) Rebarchik, she was baptized Mary Magdalene at St. Leo Church, Pound, Wisconsin. Mary was the fifth of 11 children. She was blessed with seven brothers and three sisters and noted they all made her happy. Living on a farm, she helped her father in the fields and her mother in the house. She was content with whatever she had to do.

Mary attended Reeds Hill, a public school because there was no parish school. Religion classes were taken on Saturday mornings and part of the summer at St. Leo Church. She made her first Communion when she was in the third grade and remembers saying, "Jesus, I love you. Thou knowest that I love you. I wish to love you daily more and more."

In 1948, Mary wrote, "The peace and perfect happiness of being together was broken. It was the end of my fifth grade and my mother died. We were then separated, some stayed on the farm with my guardian, others went to Black River Falls, Marinette or Milwaukee." Mary and her youngest sister stayed with a wonderful aunt in Milwaukee where Mary finished her elementary education at St. Gall's School. It was here she felt the call to be a sister.

Mary joined the CYO and the Legion of Mary to keep busy. She noted, "Yes, my life was changed, not taken away. It was a change from the farm to living in the city, especially such a big one. Here I received confirmation and chose St. Ann to help me in my vocation."

For the first year of high school, Mary attended St. Boniface in Milwaukee. It was 1952 that her dear father died. Initially, Mary thought about being a cloistered Benedictine Sister of Perpetual Adoration, but followed the advice of her aunt who thought because Mary was just 16, it would be better to attend a preparatory school in order to try it out. Mary enrolled in the SSND-sponsored St. Mary's Academy, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. It was here that she felt at home.

Following her high school graduation, Mary entered the SSND candidature at the former Milwaukee motherhouse in August 1955. Mary preferred the work of being a house-sister, so her training was focused in the area of homemaking. She was received into the novitiate on June 26, 1956 and given her religious name, Mary Anthony Clare. She professed first vows on July 17, 1957.

Sister Mary Anthony Clare's (aka Sister Toni) ministry spanned 44 years. In addition to homemaking, she served the elderly. Her ministry locations were all in Wisconsin at St. Joseph, Holy Cross, St. Barbara, St. Lawrence, St. Rita, Immaculate Conception and Catholic Social Services in Milwaukee; Notre Dame of the Lake and St. James in Mequon; Christ King in Wauwatosa; and Notre Dame of Elm Grove and St. Mary in Elm Grove.

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister Mary Anthony Clare
Rebarchik*



Her choice to be a homemaker was a good one. Sister Toni was a hard worker. She truly gave herself to her ministry of homemaking and those who lived with her knew her as a good cook. She flourished and developed her service to our sisters as well as helping the handicapped and elderly. At Holy Cross she became an excellent driver and after receiving her license, one of her brothers gave her driving tips and she honed her skills.

In 2001, Sister Toni suffered a debilitating stroke that forced her to retire from active ministry. From 2002 to 2005, she lived at Havenwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Milwaukee. Through the Community Care Program, Sister Toni and other sisters who required skilled nursing care were able to return to Notre Dame of Elm Grove. Her ministry of prayer and presence continued at NDEG until her death.

Sister Francita was Sister Toni's "big sister" at St. Mary's Academy in Prairie du Chien. Francita and Toni were friends ever since and did crafts together. Sister Toni loved the outdoors. Her sister, Sister Ann and sisters of the NDEG community took Toni in her wheelchair for rides around the beautiful grounds. Inside Toni kept herself busy by working puzzles, which she loved. It was remarkable how she stuck with completing very challenging puzzles.

Sister Toni died at the age of 78 on April 22, 2016 at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, Wisconsin. She is survived by brothers Anthony, Francis, Ignatius, Michael, Leonard, Joseph, Leo; sisters Margaret Boisen, Rose Strait and Sr. Ann Rebarchik, nieces and nephews, loving extended family and friends, and the SSND Community.

Sister Toni was a quiet person her whole life. She was devoted to her family and enjoyed their company. It is true to say that "by her works you shall know her." — Sister Toni, we trust you are happy in your new home, letting the angels wait on you now.

*This remembrance is compiled from SSND archival information
and the eulogy presented by Sister Carla Huebner, SSND*

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