



**Birth**  
October 7, 1927

**Baptism**  
October 16, 1927

**Profession**  
August 6, 1948

**Death**  
January 2, 2017

**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 Rose Helene (Rosemary) Miller, SSND

**B**orn October 7, 1927 in Portage, Wisconsin to Harry and Irene (Waite) Miller, she was baptized Rose Mary at St. Mary's Church in Portage. The third of eight children, Rose Helene had three brothers and four sisters. She attended St. Mary's school in Portage and recalled that "school was never one of my loves but I loved the Sisters."

Rose Helene was an avid nature lover and spent as much time as she could outdoors even from a young age. She recalled spending time roaming in the woods and learning to fish, a lifelong passion, from her mother. She wrote, "God was there in every tree, flower and weed. Peace filled my soul in the outdoors."

As a girl, Rose Helene's family ran a restaurant and she met people from all over the country as they visited and passed through. She wrote later that this experience helped her later in the classroom as she dealt with students and parents of all kinds.

Although studies were not a passion, Sister Rose Helene recalled that "as a child I loved church and went as often as I could." Her family relocated to Milwaukee and she attended St. Mary's Academy. This was her first encounter with SSND sisters and she entered SSND candidature in 1945. She was received as a novice in 1947 and professed first vows on August 6, 1948. She received a bachelor's in Education from Mount Mary University in 1959.

Sister Rose Helene's ministry of education spanned 43 years. She taught second grade at St. Joseph School in Milwaukee for 13 years. She noted that the first two years with "were full of tears and frustration." On her third year of teaching, Sister Helene Montz came as the principal and "started making a teacher out of me. She did a good job and I loved teaching after that."

In 1961, she went to St. Joseph School in Hewitt, Wisconsin where she taught for seven years in a small town. She then taught at St. Bruno for two years in Dousman, Wisconsin. She then went to St. Joseph in Waterloo, Wisconsin as principal and teacher where she served for ten years.

Her next mission was in Huntington, Indiana at SS. Peter and Paul. There she would hold an annual pajama party for students to have a sleep over at the convent, girls one week, boys the next. She recalled that it was a "wonderful experience for children and they never forgot it."

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Mary Rose Helene Miller*



She also took students to a friend’s farm for their picnic days to go fishing. She recalled that: “Most teachers took their kids to a place of learning. I took mine out to a friend’s house to appreciate beauty that God had given us in nature ...This was a first for some kids and they enjoyed nature in all its beauty. Catching a fish is and will always remain a joy. Learning is a very broad subject.”

She was also involved in teaching catechism on the Indian Reservation in Sugar Island, Michigan from 1959-1986 and remained in contact with many of her students. Rose Helene served at St. Patrick School in Elkhorn Wisconsin for one year before becoming a coordinator in nursing care in Elm Grove. She continued to serve sisters until 1998.

During her celebration of her 50th Jubilee, she recalled that “many friends came for the celebration. At the lunch a friend came carrying a long new fishing pole with a big ribbon attached. No one had to ask who the present was for—they knew.”

Rose Helene continued to serve as volunteer in the sewing room for many years and spent time making rugs and other crafts with other sisters and serving through prayer and presence.

Sister Rose Helene Miller died January 2, 2017 in Elm Grove, Wisconsin. She was 89. She is survived by her brother Robert Miller, her sister Kathleen Miller, brother-in-law Clemence Tock, nieces, nephews, extended family members, dear friends and the SSND Community. Preceded in death her parents, her brothers Harley and William and her sisters Margaret Tock, Helen Pilecky and Patricia Lynett.

Sister Rose Helene wrote that, “Every Spring brought growth in nature and in me. Each seed, bud, blossom and fruit made me stand in awe of God and His goodness and beauty.”

*This remembrance is compiled from SSND archival information and the eulogy written by Sister Rose Helene Miller, SSND.*

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