



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Sister Monica Jean Welniak, SSND
Cook, Baker**

Elm Grove, Wisconsin – Sister Monica Jean Welniak, 87, died August 7, 2017. She was born, Delores Mae Welniak to John Welniak and Monica (Knebel) Welniak in a farmhouse in Elyria, Nebraska. The farmhouse was owned by Delores’s grandparents, Joseph and Josephine Welniak, who had emigrated from Warsaw, Poland.



Delores Mae was the oldest of five children. Her sister, Alvina, was born in 1932 in the family farmhouse in Nebraska, as was her brother, Hubert in 1936. In 1940, her sister, Gloria, was born and the family moved to the Marshfield, Wisconsin, area. She attended two different one room schools, one in Nebraska and one in Wisconsin, and graduated from Marshfield Senior High School in 1948. After high school, Sister Monica Jean worked in Marshfield for five years. According to her biography, she was looking for a change. She moved to Denver, Colorado, to live with some extended family. Then decided to move again, to Cincinnati, Ohio, for two years.

Sister Monica Jean wrote, “It was there that I found what God had in store for me. I worked in an office with a seminarian who had a summer job there, and he mentioned a few words about vocations that really struck home, and that is why I found myself ringing the doorbell of the Motherhouse of the School Sisters of Notre Dame on August 25, 1958, which was my entrance day.” She professed First Vows on July 28, 1960.

During most of her life as an SSND, Sister Monica Jean served as a homemaker and in food service in grade schools, high schools, convents, independent services and at restaurants in Chicago and Wisconsin. In her autobiography, Sister Monica Jean makes observations remembering her ministry there, like how she would bake 20 loaves of bread at a time for over 400 students at Pacelli High School in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. She never anticipated getting a job in a restaurant, where she cooked for seven years until it closed. After she retired in 2001, she lived with her mother until her mother passed away in September 2005. In 2011, she moved to Elm Grove. She ended her autobiography joyfully, “I am very happy. We are well taken care of and everyone is very nice.”

Sister Monica, was well known her for love of the both the Brewers and the Packers, her bobblehead collection and her love for making cookies. She was a loyal and devoted fan, known for collecting and displaying memorabilia of her teams.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Alvina Hansen, and her brother Hubert Welniak and she is survived and remembered by her sisters, Gloria Welniak and Patricia Wester. Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Retirement Fund, c/o Resource Development, 13105 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122 or online at www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Partner/Donation.