



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 6, 2017

**Sister Constance Pytlik, SSND**  
**Teacher, pastoral minister**

**Elm Grove, Wisconsin** – Sister Constance Pytlik, 84, died October 20, 2017. Sister Constance, Connie to all who knew her, was born on November 17, 1932 into the loving and faith-filled family of Joseph and Martha Pytlik. She described herself as “the pickle in the middle” of a family of five daughters. Chickie and Hortie were her two older sisters, Margie and Barbara were her younger siblings.



St. Casimir's was a block from the Pytlik home in Milwaukee, and it was here that Connie went to school and received her First Communion on May 24, 1942. She recalled that it was around this time that she began to be drawn to religious life. By the time, she reached the eighth grade and her parents realized that she was really serious about wanting to become a sister, they supported her wholeheartedly.

At age 14, she became an aspirant in 1947. She professed first vows in 1953, and received the name Stella Maris. She graduated from Mount Mary in 1963 and finished her master's from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1972.

She was missioned to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she taught first grade. She continued teaching first and second grades for 10 years in Milwaukee, Butler and West Allis, Wisconsin. She continued teaching in Wisconsin until 1971. Late in 1971, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. She was 39 years old. She continued her mission in pastoral ministry. She worked with teens, with the elderly or one-on-one in spiritual direction.

As Sister Joan Penzenstadler said in her remembrance of Sister Connie, “She was gently present. If she needed to confront someone, she confided that she always waited until she was at peace within herself and then she would speak with the person from a place of love. She often remarked that she had a strong desire to follow a contemplative way of life and realized that this is what her Beloved God was offering her for a good deal of her religious life.”

She became semi-retired in 1987, continuing to work in spiritual ministry and leadership at Mt. Carmel in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin. She officially fully retired in 1992 and moved to Elm Grove in 2004.

She is survived by her sisters, Hortence Wagner and Barbara Weidenbauer and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Martha and her sisters, Margaret Merz and Mary Agnes Clark. 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](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/Partner/Donation).

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