



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 12, 2017

Sister Margaret Karas, SSND
Teacher, nurse

Elm Grove, Wisconsin— Sister Margaret Karas, 85, died September 29, 2017. She was born May 27, 1932 at home on Milwaukee Street in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Stanly Karas and Josephine Wabich both of Polish decent.

She wrote in her autobiography, “I was the fifth child and the first girl of four brothers who taught me how to live life. When the Karas family was complete, I was blessed with eight brothers and one sister. When I was brought for Baptism-my reverend uncle asked what name. My parents said, Petrinilla after grandma but my Reverend uncle said, ‘Oh no we can’t name her that!’ He looked up at the stain glass windows in Sacred Heart Church and said, ‘Let’s name her Margaret Mary.’”



After the ninth grade at St. Adalbert’s School, I entered the Juniorate. I entered the convent to become a nurse. At every opportunity I let my wish be heard. I was given charge of the infirmary in the candidature and also in the novitiate.

When it came to obediences I was sent out to teach. After 30 some years in education, I again expressed my desire to be a nurse and got the permission. After checking the nursing schools and finding out the year of study, I decided to become a nursing assistant. I was a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) at Notre Dame of Elm Grove for about two years. Then I was appointed local leader at Notre Dame Health Care Center in Elm Grove, Wisconsin.

After six years, I went to the Marshall Street Motherhouse where I worked in hospitality. I went with a willing and joyful heart ready to start a new ministry. When St. Helen’s, on the south side of Milwaukee, was opened as a house of hospitality for an interim stay for SSND’s in transition, I was invited to be the coordinator of hospitality. I also worked for the Kentucky Nun’s Study for 10 years taking care of the finances between the province and the study.”

Sister Margaret became part of the dialysis community on a weekly basis in 2009. Her presence was important to other dialysis patients because she listened to them with a loving heart. She often provided knitted sleeves or neck pillows for other patients. Sister Margaret listened to their stories with the promise of prayers.

She is survived by her brothers, Stanley, Jerome, Charles and Edmund, sister-in laws Dorothy Karas, Bernie Karas, Pauline Karas, Mary LeMieux, and brother-in-law Frank Budnick, 37 nieces and nephews and the SSND community and friends. Preceded in death by her parents and her brothers Merv, Ray, Bernard, Richard, and sister Dorothy and sister-in-laws Mary, Dolores, Joan, Christa and brother-in-law Gerald Sokol. 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.