

September 9, 2019

**Sister Mary Lorenzo Schuster, SSND
Housekeeper, Baker**

Elm Grove, Wisconsin – Sister Mary Lorenzo Schuster, SSND, died at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, August 26, 2019. She was 104 and served as a house keeper and baker. The memorial Mass was celebrated August 29, 2019, at Notre Dame of Elm Grove in Elm Grove, Wisconsin.

Margaret Schuster was born on May 21, 1915, on a farm near Marshall, Wisconsin. She professed on July 17, 1941 and was given the name Sister Mary Lorenzo.

After her profession, when her classmates left for mission work, she remained behind to serve as assistant cook in the kitchen. Two years later, Mother Superior asked Sister Lorenzo to go serve at St. Anthony, Milwaukee doing general house work.

After the two years at St. Anthony, she was sent back to Notre Dame of Elm Grove for five years. Sister Lorenzo was then sent to St. Mary's, Port Washington, Wisconsin. While there, Sister Lorenzo earned a Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Leadership Certificate from Alverno College. Next, she went to Christ King in Wauwautosa, Wisconsin, for eight years; St. Agnes in Butler, Wisconsin, for one year; and Messmer High School in Milwaukee, for seven years.

While working with the Messmer High School community, Sister Lorenzo participated in community cooking, baking and doing housework for almost 30 sisters. On July 10, 1973, Sister Lorenzo finally reached her dream of finishing high school. At the age of 58, she earned her GED from Milwaukee Area Technical College– 43 years after she was pulled out of Marshall High School by her mother. Her final ministry was at Sacred Hearts, Sun Prairie, for 10 years. She then retired to St. John's in South Milwaukee for three years and to Mount Calvary for 16 years, where she planted rose bushes by the dozens before moving to Notre Dame of Elm Grove in 2007.

Sister Lorenzo was not only the oldest sister in the Central Pacific province, but in the United States. She lived to be 104 years and three months. Sister Lorenzo was also the last living participant in the Nun Study. The Nun Study is a landmark study in Alzheimer's disease and studies of aging. Sister Lorenzo donated her brain to the Nun Study.

Sister Lorenzo Schuster was born to Eternal Life on August 26, 2019, at age 104. She is survived by her brothers, Henry (Alice) Schuster and James (Margaret) Schuster; her sister Ann Spahn; sister-in-law Jean Schuster; nieces and nephews; and the SSND Community. Preceded in death by her parents, William and Josephine; her brothers Norbert, Robert, Lawrence, Bernard, Joseph; and her sister Beth.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Resource Development, 13105 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove, WI, 53122-2213, or online at <https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/give>.

