

## Sister Mary Beth Wilhelm, CSA

Sister Mary Beth Wilhelm, CSA, formerly known as Sister Donelda, died peacefully September 29, 2015, at Nazareth Center.

Mary Beth was born in Tiffin, Ohio, on October 21, 1923, to John Wilhelm and Margaret Desch Wilhelm. The Wilhelms were a large family of twelve children, eight boys and four girls. Mary Beth entered St. Agnes Convent on August 28, 1937, and made her profession of vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1942, as Sister Donelda.

Sister received a B.S. in Education from Marian College of Fond du Lac, an M.S. in Education from Marquette University, Milwaukee, and Certificates in Clinical Pastoral Education from St. Joseph Hospital in Milwaukee and St. Francis Hospital in La Crosse. She taught in elementary schools for 41 years in Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana. Sister Mary Beth was a member of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. For 18 years she served in pastoral ministry to the homebound and hospitalized, and with the sisters at Nazareth Heights Infirmary and Nazareth Court and Center. Her full-time pastoral ministry for 10 years among St. Patrick's Catholic community, Hudson, Wisconsin, was especially recognized by the people. Before she completed her stay in Hudson, Sister Mary Beth helped establish the Befriender Program for trained lay volunteers who would continue her ministry. She was also involved in the Fond du Lac Grandparent Program while tutoring at St. Joseph School, and in bereavement ministry and prison ministry through Holy Family Parish, Fond du Lac.



Sister Mary Beth was preceded in death by her parents John Wilhelm and Margaret Desch Wilhelm, her brothers Robert Wilhelm, Paul Wilhelm, Raymond Wilhelm, Bill Wilhelm, and John Wilhelm, and by her sister Alice Rippinger.

Sister is survived by her brothers Donald Wilhelm, Eugene Wilhelm, and Karl Wilhelm, and her sisters Helen (Joe) Rippinger and Dorothy (Emmett) Droll, and the Sisters of St. Agnes, with whom she lived, prayed and ministered.

Visitation for Sister Mary Beth Wilhelm will be at Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, at 9:00 a.m., followed by a prayer service at 11:00 a.m. on October 7, 2015.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 2:00 p.m. on October 7, 2015, at St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Her nephew Fr. Joel Rippinger, O.S.B., will concelebrate with Fr. Ken Smits, Capuchin. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery.

Memorials can be directed to the Sisters of St. Agnes Development Office, 320 County Road K, Fond du Lac, WI 54937.