

Sister Vera Bittel, CSA

Sister Vera (formerly Allen) Bittel, CSA, 82, passed away on Monday, December 10, 2007, at St. Agnes Hospital.

Sister was born in Ellis, Kansas on April 7, 1925, a daughter to Jacob and Margaret Dreiling Bittel. She made her profession with the Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1946.

For more than fifty of her sixty-two years as a Sister of St. Agnes, Sister Vera served as a teacher, as parish minister, and as a pastoral care-giver in the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Kansas. Her success in a variety of ministries attests to her willingness to try new things. To all her work she brought dedication, compassion, and understanding, especially of those students or adults who were misunderstood because they seemed to march to a different tune.



Sister Vera's concerns extended beyond her immediate context to include world issues of poverty, hunger, and justice. She exuded strength in facing life that gave courage to those she served as well as to her family and friends. Her positive outlook and sense of humor were contagious and drew around her many friends. Their love and her strong faith sustained her as she struggled with bouts of ill health these last three years.

Sister Vera is survived by two sisters, Noreen McDonald of Fond du Lac and Frances (Genochio) Lecuyer of Blue Springs, Missouri; one aunt, Virginia Clotfelter of Hays, Kansas; one nephew, Gene Bittel of Ellis, Kansas; two nieces, Stacie Kidwell of Marathon, Florida, and Lisa Watkins of Philmath, Oregon; nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and the members of the Congregation of St. Agnes, with whom she lived and ministered.

Preceding her in death are her parents, two brothers, Wesley Bittel and Allen Bittel, and one sister, Evelyn McConnell.

Visitation: Sister's family and the Congregation of St. Agnes will receive relatives and friends from 1:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12, 2007, at Nazareth Court and Center, 375 E. Gillett St., Fond du Lac. A prayer service will be held at 6:00 p.m.

Services: A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2007, in the St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac. The Rev. Edward Sippel will preside. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery.

The Sisters of St. Agnes are grateful to the nurses and staff at Nazareth Court/Center and St. Francis Home for their care for Sister Vera over these past three years.

Memorials may be directed to the Sisters of St. Agnes Development Office, 320 County Road K, Fond du Lac, WI 54935.