

Sister Anthelma Feuerstein, CSA

Sister Anthelma (Margaret Mary) Feuerstein, 99, died on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, in St. Agnes Hospital. She was a resident at Nazareth Center.

Born February 24, 1910, to Frank and Selma Rabitzke Feuerstein, Margaret Mary grew up in a close-knit family with her five other siblings in Two Rivers, Wisconsin. She attended the St. Luke's parish grade school staffed by the Sisters of St. Agnes. One of her fondest childhood activities was crocheting and tatting, skills she learned from her mother. She recalled how she and her classmates in middle grades gathered on the porches of their homes to crochet and tat. It was a lifelong skill that many of her acquaintances would come to treasure.



Though she loved her family, Margaret decided at the tender age of 14 to follow the example of her grade school teachers and entered the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes. Three years later in 1927 she became a novice with the name of Sister Anthelma. The first group to have a two-year novitiate, these novices made their first profession of vows in August 1929, shortly before the Great Depression.

The newly-professed Sister Anthelma began what would be seven decades as an educator in Victoria, Kansas, at St. Fidelis School, where she taught from 1929-1940. Her pioneer spirit was forged during these difficult years of hard economic times and dust storms in Kansas. In those years Sisters often taught during the school year and earned their teaching degrees by taking classes during the summer. Sister Anthelma was no exception, earning her B.A.Ed. degree from Marian College (now University) in 1947 and her masters degree from Marquette in 1959. From Kansas she went on to teach grade school students in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. In 1945 she became a teaching principal, serving in that capacity for most of the next 40 years. Her education ministry continued even after retirement first in Hortonville and then in Watertown.

Sister Anthelma was a beloved teacher. She was soft-spoken and had a ready smile and sense of humor, qualities that made her very approachable. One of her students from her first teaching assignment in Kansas became a respected lawyer and credited her teaching techniques with his later success. His respect and admiration are seen in lengthy letters sent to her over a period of years. It is no surprise that some of the girls whom she taught or who experienced her as a welcoming and warm presence in their parish decided to follow her path and became Sisters of St. Agnes. Some Sisters today remember Sister Anthelma helping them prepare to enter the convent.

In her early retirement years Sister Anthelma was active in the parishes where she lived: tutoring students, helping in the school library, or contributing crocheted and

tatted items for auctions. Her impeccable workmanship made these items popular. One of her tablecloths brought in \$1,000. Sister liked to bake cookies to share with the Sisters or guests who came to visit. As a native Wisconsinite, Sister Anthelma made no secret of her love for the Green Bay Packers. She could be seen wearing a cheesehead hat and other Packer garb. She treasured a picture of herself with a Packer player and a football signed by Brett Favre.

Throughout her life, Sister Anthelma remained close to her brothers and sisters and their families, caring about their concerns and holding them in prayer. When she retired to Nazareth Court and Center in 2001, Sister Anthelma was a welcome member of the community with her gentle ways, her pleasant smile, her prayerful presence, and—yes—her undying support for the Packers. She was a humble person but took pride in the fact that this year she was celebrating 80 years as a Sister of St. Agnes. She was eager to celebrate this jubilee year in heaven. God granted her wish as she died peacefully in St. Agnes Hospital.

Sister Anthelma is survived by three sisters: Eunice Antonie of Manitowoc, WI; Bernice Van Ess and Ruth LeClair of Two Rivers, WI; one brother: Robert (Joan) Feuerstein of New Holstein, WI; several nieces and nephews; and the Sisters of St. Agnes with whom she lived, prayed, and ministered.

Preceding her in death are her parents, Frank and Selma Feuerstein, and two brothers: Raymond and Francis.

Visitation: Visitation for Sister Anthelma will be held on Monday, May 18th from 9:00 a.m. until 1:45 p.m. at Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac. A vigil service will be prayed at 11:00 a.m.

Services: A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on May 18th, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac. Father Thomas Marr will preside. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery.