

Sister Kathleen Nelessen, CSA

Sister Kathleen Catherine Nelessen, CSA, (formerly Sister Kateri) died peacefully at Nazareth Court and Center on Friday, April 6, 2012.

Sister Kathy was born at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Appleton, Wisconsin, on November 29, 1941. She was the first of seven children born to Mary (Van Lanen) Nelessen and Norbert A. Nelessen.

Sister Kathy entered the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on September 10, 1964, and made first profession of vows on August 15, 1967. She graduated from St. Agnes School of Nursing in July 1964 and earned a BSN in Nursing from Marian College in December 1968. She ministered as a nurse for the next twenty-two years at various locations including: St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac; St. Clare Hospital in Monroe, St. John Rest Home in Victoria, Kansas; St. Anthony Hospital, Hospice of the Plains, and at St. John Rest Home all in Hays, Kansas; and the Chippewa Health Center in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. She served in congregational leadership as a regional coordinator for eight years and ministered at St. Francis Home, Fond du Lac, in Spiritual Care for the last five years. For twenty four and a half years, Sister Kathy struggled with cancer while continuing to minister to those in need with joy and compassion.

She was preceded in death by her father, Norbert Nelessen, her stepfather Robert Kessler, and her niece Anne and husband Terry.

Sister Kathy is survived by her mother Mary, brother Cletus and wife Dianne, her sisters Donna Nelessen, Luella and husband Tom Opsteen, Sharon and husband Chuck Mikkelsen, Cindy and husband Paul Sanders, Carla and husband Paul German and numerous nieces and nephews, grand nieces and nephews. Also surviving are her aunt, Sister Anne Jude Van Lanen, CSA, and the Sisters of St. Agnes, with whom she lived, prayed, and ministered.

Visitation will be from 2:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., with a prayer service at 3:00 p.m., on Monday, April 9, at St Francis Home Chapel, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

On Tuesday, April 10, visitation is from 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 11:30 a.m. at Holy Family Church, 271 4th St. Way, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. A luncheon will follow.

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

The Sisters of St. Agnes are grateful to the nurses and staff at Nazareth Court and Center and Hospice Hope for their care of Sister Kathy.

