Sister Frances Gilles, CSA

Sister Frances Gilles (Francis Paul), CSA, 85, a resident of Saint Francis Home in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, died at the Home on Wednesday, April 18, 2007, after a lengthy illness.

Sister was born in Waunakee, Wisconsin, on July 14, 1921, the first of ten children of Francis and Mary Dorn Gilles. In August, 1935, Frances entered the Congregation of Saint Agnes from her home parish of Saint John the Baptist in Waunakee and professed her vows on August 15, 1940.

Sister Frances ministered for 36 years as an elementary school teacher in Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. She taught at St. Joseph’s School in Fond du Lac from 1944 to 1950, at Calumet District #5 School in Marytown from 1950 to 1953 and at St. Mary’s School in Fond du Lac from 1953 to 1964. From 1976 to 1994 Sister Frances served as secretary in Catholic schools in Illinois and Wisconsin. From 1980 to 1988 she served as secretary in the Registrar’s office at Marian College in Fond du Lac. In her retirement years Sister Frances ministered in the “Sisters Interacting With Seniors” program, residing at Mercy Apartments in Milwaukee. Sister Frances will always be remembered for her gentle spirit and her ready smile.

Survivors include two sisters, Jeannette (Louis) Schwarz of Sauk City, WI, and Margaret Conway of Hollandale, WI; two brothers, Martin Gilles and Robert (Mabel) Gilles, of Lodi, WI; and two sisters-in-law, Annella Gilles of Waunakee, WI, and Helen Gilles of Middleton, WI, many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, other relatives, friends, and members of the Congregation of St. Agnes with whom she lived and ministered.

Sister was preceded in death by three brothers, Alfred and Wilfred Gilles and Father Eugene Gilles, SAC; and two sisters, Clara Boland and Frances Ann Rysewyk.

Services: A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:45 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, 2007, at St. Francis Home Chapel at 33 Everett St. in Fond du Lac. The Rev. Joseph Wolf, OFM Cap., will preside. Burial will follow the Mass of Christian Burial and will be at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery in Fond du Lac.

Visitation: Visitation will be held at Nazareth Court, 375 Gillett Street in Fond du Lac after 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 21, 2007, where a prayer service will be held at 11:00 a.m.

Memorials may be directed to the Sisters of St. Agnes Development Office.