

Sister Germaine Lichtle, CSA

Sister Germaine Lichtle, CSA, baptized Mary Helen Lichtle, died peacefully on April 7, 2018, at St. Francis Home, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Mary Helen Lichtle was born in Decatur, Indiana, on February 21, 1923, to Frank Lichtle and Viola Ulman. She was the second youngest child in a family of three girls and four boys. Orphaned at age seven, after the deaths of both parents within a short time span, Mary Helen lived in turn with her maternal grandparents, her sister Margaret and family, and with her brother Adrian and his wife. The family always remained close, and Sister Germaine was grateful throughout life for the blessing of her good home full of faith, love and care.

After graduation from Decatur Catholic High School, Mary Helen entered St. Agnes Convent in Fond du Lac. She made first profession of vows as Sister Germaine in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1944. Sister Germaine received a BS in Education from Marian College of Fond du Lac in 1952 and an MA in Business Education from the College of St. Rose, Albany, New York, in 1964. Sister kept up-to-date professionally through numerous post-graduate courses. In later years she became certified as a Retirement Planning Specialist for Religious through the Center for Ministry Transition, Ballwin, Missouri.

Sister taught in the elementary grades for eleven years in Indiana and Kansas. She taught business classes in secondary schools for 34 years in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and New York. For six years, she was an adjunct instructor in business education at Marian College, while serving as the local coordinator for the retired sisters at Boyle Apostolic Center in Fond du Lac. After completing her ministry as a classroom teacher, she became a member of the Foster Grandmother Program and tutored in the Learning Resource Center at St. Mary's Springs Academy for 17 years, until she became a resident of Nazareth Court and Center. Among her companions at the Nazareth campus, she generously contributed her talents as a seamstress and her gift of hospitality.

Sister Germaine was recognized for her service in the field of education at Sacred Heart High School, Yonkers, New York, being inducted into its Hall of Fame in 1995. She received the St. Joseph Volunteer of the Year Award at the St. Mary's Springs Benefactors Recognition in May 2009.

Sister Germaine was preceded in death by her parents Frank and Viola Lichtle; her half-brother Tom Lichtle; brothers Adrian Lichtle, Francis Lichtle, and an infant; her sisters Margaret Meyer, and Catherine Kaehr. She is survived by many loving nieces and nephews, and the Sisters of St. Agnes, with whom she lived, prayed and ministered.

Visitation for Sister Germaine Lichtle will be held on Wednesday, April 11, at 2:00 p.m., at Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. A prayer service will take place at Nazareth Center Chapel at 4:00 p.m., April 11.

A Mass of Christian Burial is scheduled for April 12, 2018, at 9:45 a.m., at St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Father Ken Smits, Capuchin, will be the presider. 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.

The Sisters of St. Agnes are grateful to the nurses and staff of Nazareth Court and Center/St. Francis Home and the staff of Hospice Hope for their care of Sister Germaine in her last years.

Zacherl Funeral Home is serving the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Agnes

