

Sister Mary Lee Spielbauer, CSA

Sister Mary Lee Spielbauer, CSA, baptized Catherine Audrey Spielbauer, died peacefully Sunday, September 30, 2018, at St. Francis Home.

Catherine Audrey was born in Cudahy, Wisconsin, on September 4, 1923, to Leo Spielbauer and Mary Vander Loop Spielbauer. She was one of eleven children, nine boys and two girls.

She attended South Milwaukee High School for three years then, having moved, graduated from Menasha High in 1941. After working several years in a factory, Catherine joined the Cadet Nursing Corps since nurses were in short supply. In 1944 she entered St. Agnes School of Nursing, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, receiving her diploma in 1947. She worked for a year at St.

Agnes Hospital before moving to Chicago. She worked full-time there as an operating room nurse while studying for a degree in nursing at Loyola University. Catherine returned to Fond du Lac to complete her studies, earning her BS in Nursing Education from Marian College in 1954.

She entered St. Agnes Convent in 1956 and made her profession of vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1958, as Sister Mary Lee. She ministered as a nurse for sixteen years at St. Agnes Hospital, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; St. Thomas Hospital, Colby, Kansas; and St. Clare Hospital, Monroe, Wisconsin. Sister continued to take courses throughout her life to keep updated in nursing and in theology. In 1974 she joined the Marian College Nursing Division serving as a Clinical Instructor in various professional areas. She completed her ministry at Marian in the role of College Health Nurse.

After retiring from nursing in 1990, Sister Mary Lee did community service at St. Agnes Convent. She assisted in the congregation's archives until 2002, contributing her organizational skill, attention to detail and appreciation of history. She also volunteered among the sisters at Nazareth Court and Center. Sister Mary Lee had many talents and interests in life. She enjoyed baking, knitting, quilting, painting and other types of art work, to name a few.

Sister Mary Lee was preceded in death by her parents Leo Spielbauer and Mary Vanderloop Spielbauer, her brothers Edgar, Robert, Donald, Richard, Norman, Marvin, and twins John and Mike who died at birth. Sister is survived by her brother Leroy Spielbauer, her sister Carol Konetzke, and the Sisters of St. Agnes, with whom she lived, prayed and ministered.

Visitation for Sister Mary Lee will be at Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, on Friday, October 5, 2018, beginning at 9:00 a.m. A prayer service will follow in Nazareth Center Chapel at 11:00 a.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, on Friday, October 5, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. The presider will be Father Ken Smits, Capuchin. 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 Hospice Hope for their care of Sister Mary Lee in her last years.

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

