

Sister Michaela O'Brien, CSA

Sister Michaela O'Brien, CSA, baptized Mary Ellen O'Brien, died October 17, 2018, at St. Francis Home, Fond du Lac, WI.

Mary Ellen was born in Eden, WI, on January 15, 1920, to James H. O'Brien and Estelle Stack O'Brien. The family of seven included three boys and four girls.

Mary Ellen graduated from St. Mary's Springs Academy in 1936. She received a BS in Physical Education and Social Studies from UW-La Crosse in 1941.

In 1943 Mary Ellen entered St. Agnes Convent. She made profession of vows as Sister Michaela in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1946.

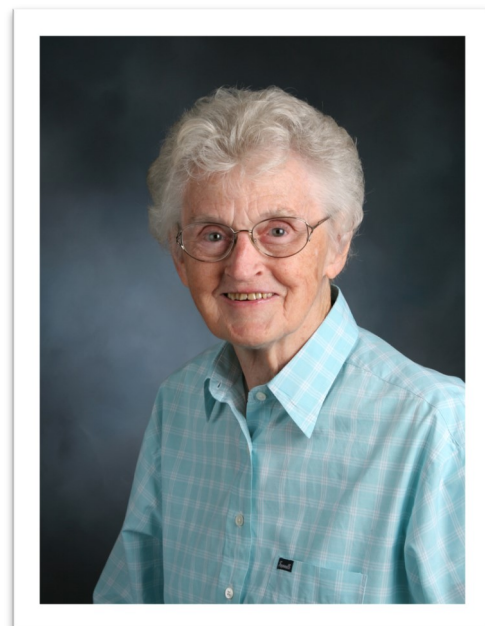
She attended Marian College during her years of religious formation, studying theology, English, math and education. In her early years of teaching, she enrolled in summer courses such as drama, physics and chemistry at Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI. In 1958 Sister earned an MS in Education from Marquette with a major in guidance. She furthered her professional education at various colleges through courses in secondary school administration, physics and Scripture.

Sister Michaela taught at St. Mary Springs, Fond du Lac, in a total of five different academic disciplines, for 21 years beginning in 1946. She was an assistant administrator and teacher at Beloit Catholic High School from 1967-1971. She was also appointed to several roles of service within the congregation: director of the aspirancy for ten years; vocation director for 15 years; apostolic councilor for secondary education for eight years. She completed her long life in ministry where she began it, returning to St. Mary Springs in 1979. For more than 30 years, she continued to support her alma mater, assuming various staff and volunteer positions, including assistant administrator, guidance counselor, alumni director and assistant in the archives.

Sister Michaela exemplified in her personal life qualities she encouraged in her students ~ faith, commitment, discipline, excellence, loyalty, concern for others and perseverance.

Sister Michaela was preceded in death by her parents James H. O'Brien and Estelle Stack O'Brien; her brothers Thomas O'Brien and James O'Brien; and her sisters Florence Flood, Helen Gellings, and Alice Michels.

She is survived by her brother Patrick O'Brien, many devoted nieces and nephews, other relatives, friends, colleagues, and the Sisters of St. Agnes, with whom she lived, prayed and ministered.



Visitation for Sister Michaela O'Brien will be held at Holy Family Church, 271 Fourth Street Way, Fond du Lac, WI, on October 25, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Holy Family Church, 271 Fourth Street Way, Fond du Lac, WI, on Thursday, October 25, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. The presider will be Father Ken Smits, Capuchin. Burial will be in St. Joseph Springs Cemetery at a later date.

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 Michaela in her last years.

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