

Sister Mary Beth Funyak, CSA

Sister Mary Beth (Mary Cecilia) Funyak, CSA, died Saturday evening, August 20, 2011, at St. Francis Home where she resided.



On April 13, 1934, in Nanty-Glo, Pennsylvania, Joseph and Mary Dropscho Funyak welcomed their daughter. Sister Mary Beth's family included two sisters and four brothers. The family held membership in St. Mary's Church. Sister attended St. Mary's grade school where she met the Sisters of St. Agnes. She attended the local high school in Nanty-Glo graduating in 1952. In the fall of that year she entered St. Agnes Convent in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and made first profession of vows in 1955.

Sister Mary Beth attended St. Agnes School of Nursing, graduating in 1958; she earned a B.S. in Nursing from Marian College in 1959. She participated in a sabbatical in 1989 to deepen her life with her God. Her nursing ministry took her to St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, St. Clare Hospital (Monroe Clinic Hospital) in Monroe, Wisconsin, St. Thomas Hospital in Colby, Kansas, St. John Rest Home in Victoria, Kansas, Nazareth Heights Infirmary in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and the Catholic Service Center in Mobile, Alabama.

She taught religious education and was a very active parish member at St. Joseph Parish in the Maysville neighborhood of Mobile. Sister also worked with residents of the Blandine House in Fond du Lac, taught adult reading and writing using the Laubach Literacy method, received an award from the Mobile Community Organization for her work in the neighborhood watch group, was nominated by her co-workers as the best witness to the Catholic Service Center's mission statement, and was an active member of the Board of the Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy. Sister Mary Beth was very personable, willing to give of herself for those in need. She was an avid bread maker, a gardener of all varieties of flowers, and enjoyed her morning cup of coffee as she sat on the porch listening to the birds. She was also a cross word puzzler using both the computer and the daily newspaper. Above all she loved her life as a religious and her God.

Preceding her in death were her parents; a sister, Barbara Nichols; sisters-in-law, Betty Ann (Lawrence) Funyak, and Vera (Edward) Funyak; and Nathan Thomas, a grandnephew. She is survived by a sister Florence (Stephen) Bender and by four brothers, Larry, Philip (Irene), Edward, and Joseph (Rose); 24 loving nieces and nephews; 32 loving grandnieces and nephews; and by classmates, co-workers, and the Sisters of St. Agnes, with whom she lived, prayed and ministered.

Visitation: Visitation for Sister Mary Beth Funyak will be held Thursday, August 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A prayer service will be held at 11 a.m. at Nazareth Center and Court followed by lunch.

Services: A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2 p.m. in the St. Francis Home Chapel. Father Mike Zuelke, OFM Cap, will preside. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery.

Memorials may 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 staff of St. Francis Home and Nazareth Court and Center for their care of Sister Mary Beth and to the staff of Hospice Hope in her last days.

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