



Birth
May 9, 1938

Baptism
May 11, 1938

Profession
July 17, 1958

Death
December 14, 2020

Burial
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Cemetery

*Precious and blessed is
the death of the faithful
before God... for
they die in union with
their dear Jesus, in the
grace of God, in peace.*

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
Letter 11, September 10, 1831

In Loving Memory

Sister Marcene (Mary Cletus) Schlosser

Sister Marcene Schlosser, 82, died on December 14, 2020, in Mayo Clinic Health System Hospital, Mankato, Minnesota. The second daughter in the family, Sister Marcene was born May 9, 1938, on the family farm near Madison, Minnesota. Two days later she was baptized Marcene Eva at the Church of St. Michael, Madison. Three years later, Marcene and her older sister, Anna Marie, welcomed Margaret Jean to the family. In May 1944, their mother died while giving birth to Jude, who was stillborn. That summer, the family moved to her paternal grandparents' home, and her father became both mother and father to his three daughters.

Marcene started school at St. Michael in September 1944. School was a "happy place" for her. At home, "All four of us would work in the fields, go fishing and go shopping so that my dad could teach us what we needed to know in life." In seventh grade, when Marcene expressed her desire to become a sister, her dad arranged for her to have two eye surgeries to straighten her crossed eyes, knowing that she would not be accepted with major physical limitations. She entered the aspiranture at Good Counsel Academy in Mankato, Minnesota, in the fall of 1952.

Following high school graduation in 1956, Marcene entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) candidature in September. She spent the year taking college courses and learning about SSND life. On Reception day, July 16, 1957, she wondered if she would be given her first choice of names: Sister Mary Cletus, her dad's name. (He had requested that she ask for only such names as he could pronounce and spell.) Sister Mary Cletus professed her vows in 1958, and continued her education on Good Counsel hill.

In August 1959, Sister Marcene began her ministry of teaching primary grade children at Sacred Heart School in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she stayed for seven years. Summers were spent at Our Lady of Good Counsel, attending classes to complete her bachelor's degree. She moved to St. Leo School in St. Leo, Minnesota, in 1965, where she taught first and second grade. She completed her degree in 1968 and was missioned that fall to SS. Peter & Paul School, Mankato, where she worked with multi-aged primary students. Team teaching was a popular educational concept at the time, and she became the team leader for five other teachers. She supervised student teachers and also worked with child psychology college students who needed field experience. She stayed at SS. Peter & Paul until 1975.

In 1975, Sister Marcene moved to La Crescent, Minnesota, where she taught second grade at Crucifixion School until 1978. Her next assignment was St. Michael School, St. Michael, as a teacher of first grade (1978-86). From there she transferred to Epiphany School in Coon Rapids, and taught first grade (1986-93). Her classroom ministry was paused for three years when she served as facilities director for Good Counsel Education Center (1993-96). She spent the 1996-97 school year teaching third grade at St. Wenceslaus School, Dickinson, North Dakota, but returned to Minnesota after that year. Sister Marcene's final teaching assignment was first grade at St. Bartholomew School, Wayzata (1998-2010).

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister Marcene (Mary
Cletus) Schlosser*



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School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world
through education

Wherever Sister Marcene shared her love of learning with students, she also made a strong impression on her colleagues. At SS. Peter & Paul, she was recognized for her experience using varied approaches – self-contained, multi-age and teaming – as well as her cooperation, loyalty, flexibility and openness to change, and a strong concern for development of faith community among both students and staff. Her principal at St. Michael wrote, “She loves children. They are happy and eager to come to school. Sister Marcene is sincerely interested in each student. She is an excellent teacher of reading.” A teacher at Epiphany commented, “As a colleague, I believe that Sister Marcene is a ‘Master Teacher.’ The rapport she has with students and parents is outstanding. Sister Marcene is very creative in the classroom and uses many outside resources to teach and enhance the curriculum.” Sister Marcene validated that statement in a unique way at St. Wenceslaus, Dickinson. She and Klara, a child-like puppet and classroom helper, were featured in a full-page article in the Dickinson Press. Her principal at Wayzata stated, “Sister Marcene was an outstanding educator and reading specialist. Marcene had a love for books and every student she had could read!”

During her three years as facilities director at the Education (Ed) Center, Sister Marcene was responsible for inventory control, supervised housekeeping staff, and worked closely with the hospitality director. She participated in the Ed Center’s programs for young victims of divorce and separation by working with younger children to focus on self-esteem and communication skills. Sister Marcene was also a spiritual director and spent several summers and one full year at the Center for Spiritual Development in Bird Island. Throughout her professional life, she took advantage of many educational opportunities that enhanced both her teaching ministry and her spiritual direction work.

From 2012 through 2016, Sister Marcene was a member of the SSND Postulate Community in Chicago and volunteered in the parish school as an aide for first grade. She returned to Our Lady of Good Counsel in 2016, and volunteered for Mankato’s VINE Faith in Action Literacy Center. She assisted refugee and immigrant elders with reading and writing skills, enabling participants to be more successful in their new homeland. According to VINE staff, Sister Marcene was a “perfect fit” for this work. At Our Lady of Good Counsel, Sister Marcene worked individually several days a week with one of the Vietnamese sisters, helping her with English skills. She was one of the sisters recruited by Sister Mary Donald Miller when the Good Counsel Reading Center was started in 1967, and continued her involvement at different times in the center’s 50 plus years. She herself loved to read and spent her free time doing just that. She also remained close to her two sisters and their families.

Sister Marcene’s Funeral Liturgy will be held at a later date. She is survived by her sister, Anna Marie Hagen, nieces and nephews, and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND associates. She was preceded in death by her parents, Cletus and Sylvia (Henrich) Schlosser, a sister, Margaret Ronyak, and a brother Jude, who died at birth.

By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND