



## Sister Marlene Konrady, OSB

Sister Marlene Elizabeth Konrady OSB, 73, (formerly Sr. Jerome) died in Watertown, SD on Thursday, August 25, 2016 after a prolonged illness. A Liturgical Wake will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at Wight & Comes Funeral Chapel and the Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 am at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Watertown. Burial will be at the monastery cemetery.

Sr. Marlene was a founding member of Mother of God Monastery in Watertown, SD.

Born on November 24, 1942 to the late Ernest and Mary Konrady, Sr. Marlene was raised in Watertown where she attended grade school at Immaculate Conception Parish School. Her ties to Holy Name Parish came about as her family joined others in becoming its founding members.

In 1960, Sr. Marlene entered Sacred Heart Convent and one year later transferred to Pierre, SD where she continued Benedictine formation as a novice and made perpetual vows in June of 1965. While continuing her own education, ultimately earning a Master's Degree in Art, she began teaching at St. Mary's in Aberdeen and later at Harmony Hill High School in Watertown. She described her eight year teaching career as "beautiful years!" In addition to teaching Sr. Marlene was an avid gardener and cook, a very talented potter and painter, and a skillful seamstress and quilter!

In 1973 she was asked to transition from teaching to parish ministry. In her autobiography she described those years working closely with clergy and parishioners in Ramona, Oldham, Florence, Waverly, Elkton, Henry, Aurora, Madison Newman Center and Beardsley, MN as "wonderful" years of service. She claimed she was at her peak creatively and felt most enlivened by parish ministry. Some of the ways that she brought health and healing to those she served were through baptism and marriage preparation classes, organizing and presenting weekend retreats such as Teens Encounter Christ and Residents Encounter Christ and working on the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal. Sr. Marlene served as Pastoral Administrator for the Sioux Falls Diocese at Florence, Henry, Elkton, Aurora and White, South Dakota. She was also Pastoral Administrator for the New Ulm Diocese at Beardsley, MN. Her compassion and support for those in need was the common thread of her life's work. She loved working with the people and brought out the best in them by believing in their gifts and talents.

In October, 2001, Sr. Marlene was diagnosed with progressive multiple sclerosis and soon after became wheelchair bound. With the help of parishioners making modifications to the house where she lived, she was able to continue working in Beardsley, MN for another five years. Forced by her illness, Sr. Marlene retired from parish ministry in 2007, and returned to Mother of God Monastery. Her unwavering faith in God and the support of close friends and family helped her face her final years with grace and dignity.

Sr. Marlene is survived by five (Konrady) sisters; Anita, Jeanette, Diane, Linda, and Ann; two brothers; Melvin and Roger; her life-long friend, Fr. Denis Meier and her Sisters of Mother of God Monastery. She was preceded in death by her parents Ernest and Mary, her brother Wayne and an infant brother, Keith Konrady.