



PRECIOUS
& BLESSED

*is the death of the
faithful
before*
GOD.



School Sisters of Notre Dame
of St. Louis

320 East Ripa Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63125

www.ssnd-sl.org



Sister Wilma Reinkemeyer, SSND

Born

July 7, 1918

Professed

July 30, 1943

Ministry

*Cook, laundress, housekeeper;
occupational therapy aide ~
Illinois, Iowa, Missouri,*

Died

January 17, 2009

Sister Wilma (M. Anthusa) Reinkemeyer, SSND



The youngest of nine children was born to Anna [Mertens] and Henry Reinkemeyer on a farm near Linn, Mo., on July 7, 1918. Two days later, the little girl was baptized in St. George's Church in Linn and given the name Wilhelmina Leona. Her four brothers and four sisters called her Wilma.



She attended St. George elementary school where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Her mother was an excellent seamstress and insisted that Wilma and her sisters learn to sew. During her youth, Wilma helped with the farm chores and housework. After graduating from eighth grade, she desired to become a sister but her parents thought she was needed to help at home as older brothers and sisters were employed elsewhere.

At the age of 22, her parents consented to her entrance as a candidate at Ripa on August 28, 1940. The following year, she was missioned to St. Gertrude in Krakow, Mo., to assist in the household chores. She was received into the novitiate on July 29, 1942, and given the name Mary Anthusa. Profession of first vows was on July 30, 1943, and final vows on July 30, 1949.



For 28 years, Sister Wilma served in various capacities as cook, laundress and housekeeper at the Motherhouse, Villa Gesu, Our Lady of Sorrows, Notre Dame Hall, Rosary High School and St. Francis

de Sales in St. Louis, Mo.; St. Mary, Cape Girardeau, Mo.; St. Peter, St. Charles, Mo.; St. Boniface, Koeltztown, Mo.; Immaculate Conception, Dardenne, Mo.; Sacred Heart, Fort Madison, Iowa; Academy of Notre Dame, Belleville, Ill. She was a nurse aide at Villa Gesu and the motherhouse infirmary in the early 1950s. From 1972-99, she assisted in the occupational therapy department at Villa Gesu. When the Villa closed, she moved to the Santa Anna Apartments in St. Louis. Here she served on the Sight Council and was responsible for seeing that the dining room was kept neat and clean.

Sister Wilma retired to Veronica House in April 2003 and Anna House in January 2004. She died peacefully at Anna House on January 17, 2009, at 2:20 a.m. while a sister was praying with her. A wake/vigil was held at Anna House and the motherhouse on January 21, 2009. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with interment in the motherhouse cemetery. Sister Wilma is survived by a brother, Paul, of Burns, Ore; a sister-in-law, Esther Reinkemeyer of Linn; nieces/nephews; and cousins. The funeral services were attended by many relatives, friends and SSNDs.

Sister Wilma had a great love for her family. She would frequently recount experiences of living on the family farm and the five-mile walk to school. She also had a great love for SSND and treasured the gift of her vocation. Her Golden Jubilee celebration was a milestone in her life. She was a hard-working person who served at a number of our larger missions through her ministry as cook, laundress and housekeeper. Her work in the O.T. Department at Villa Gesu enabled her to enjoy painting and wood staining. May she now rejoice in her eternal life and receive the reward God promised to those who serve others!

Precious and blessed is the death of the faithful before God.