

SISTER MABEL MENG

May 21, 1926 - February 24, 2020

Mabel Barbara Meng was born on May 21, 1926, to George and Johanna Mader-Meng on a ranch in Sioux County, Nebraska. She was the youngest of seven children, four sisters and two brothers. She was baptized in the Church of St. Aloysius in Ardmore, South Dakota. Mabel's mother died when she was 5 years of age. When she was 11, some of the family, including Mabel, moved to Iowa. At 17 years of age, Mabel returned to western Nebraska.

Mabel attended St. Agnes Academy in Alliance, Nebraska. It was there that she felt the call to religious life. She graduated in 1945 and entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance of Christian Charity in Denver, Colorado, in August of the same year. She made profession in 1947 and received the name of Sister Mary Aloysius. With the advent of the Second Vatican Council, in the late 1960's, she resumed her baptismal name of Mabel.

Sister Mabel earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dietetics from St. Mary College, Xavier, Kansas. She enjoyed that work until she was asked to study nursing. She continued her education and earned a diploma in nursing from the Sisters of St. Francis School of Nursing in Minot, North Dakota, followed by a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing Education from Marquette University, and a Master of Science Degree in Nursing Education from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Sister Mabel was a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the national honor society in nursing.

Sister Mabel's ministries included elementary education, dietetics, nursing, and nursing education. She lived and worked in South Dakota, North Dakota, Missouri, and Nebraska. She was instrumental in establishing and leading the development of the Bachelor of Science Nursing program at the Minot State College, now Minot State University, in North Dakota.

Sister Mabel worked in Alliance, Nebraska from 1977 until her retirement in 2000. She served as Staff Development Coordinator at Highland Park Care Center. During her retirement years, she enjoyed convening the Franciscan Associates, and visiting the sisters and elderly people. For many years she volunteered in various ministries at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, at St. Agnes Academy, and with her religious community. Sister Mabel maintained a deep devotion to prayer throughout her life, praying for sisters, for family and friends.

Sister Mabel moved to Marian Residence when she was 90. After a hospital stay and much pain, she asked to return to Marian Residence. She was surrounded by sisters, family, and friends praying with her and for her. On the evening of Monday, February 24, 2020, she quietly returned home to be with God and all her dear sisters, friends, and family who had gone before her.

On Friday, February 28th, there was a wake at Marian Residence led by Father Tim Stoner. Sisters, family and friends had time to share memories and stories of Sister Mabel. On Saturday, February 29th was her Mass of Resurrection celebrated by Father Tim Stoner at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, burial at Calvary Cemetery, followed by a luncheon in the parish hall.

Sisters of St Francis of Penance and Christian Charity