



Mary Ellen Schaefer

September 8, 1940 - April 5, 2019

Mary Ellen (nee Schraufnagel) Simon Schaefer, 78, Fond du Lac, passed away Friday, April 5, 2019, surrounded by family at Hospice Home of Hope in Fond du Lac after a courageous battle with cancer.

Mary was born Sept. 8, 1940, in Fond du Lac, to Alfred and Bernice (nee Dolan) Schraufnagel. She grew up on the family farm in South Byron and attended grade school at St. Mary's in Lomira. Mary graduated from St. Mary Springs High School in 1958 and received a bachelor's degree in education from Marian College in 1962.

In 1962, Mary married Harvey Simon. Together they raised their four children, Tricia, Mark, Tim, and Pam in LeRoy. In 2005, Mary was united in marriage to Gene Schaefer. This union extended her family to include children Michael, Tom, Dan, Stan, and Cynthia.

Mary considered herself a mother first and foremost. She taught second grade at St. Mary's Catholic School in Mayville for 29 years, and was passionate in her support of Catholic education. She loved her students immensely, and was known for her kindness and compassion.

Mary selflessly gave of herself to others. She volunteered for the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fond du Lac for many years. In recent years, she and her

dog Scooby were certified with the Badgerland Animal Reading and Comfort Companions organization for therapy, and were active in the community in that regard. She was blessed to be an Associate of the Sisters of St. Agnes and distributed communion to the homebound and hospital patients.

Mary is survived by her four children, Tricia (Dave) Braun of Jefferson, Mark (Kelly) Simon of Beaver Dam, Tim Simon of Middleton, and Pamela (R.J.) Hinkle of Coppell Texas, and their father, Harvey Simon of Horicon. She is further survived by her stepchildren, Michael Schaefer of Fond du Lac, Tom (Bonnie) Schaefer of Fond du Lac, Dan (Cindy) Schaefer of Madison, Stan (Sharon) Schaefer of Fond du Lac, and Cynthia Schaefer (Mark Bujnowski) of Neenah; eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild, 13 step grandchildren, and 26 step great-grandchildren. Mary also leaves behind her brothers, Tom (Karen) Schraufnagel of Plover, Dan (Mary) Schraufnagel of Franklin, and George Schraufnagel of Little Chute; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Kathleen (Ken) Krueger and Rose (John) Hansen of Fond du Lac, Marlene Schaefer of Cedarburg, Geraldine Feucht of Oconto Falls, Pauline Ronning of Fond du Lac, Delores Neumeyer of Mayville, and Cathy (Curt) Rauch of LeRoy; along with many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband of nine years, Gene; her sister, Rose Ann in infancy; her sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Linda Schraufnagel, Erwin (Sylvia) Schaefer, Earl Schaefer, Myrtle Schaefer, Charles Schaefer, Joe Feucht, Gerald (Mary Ann) Schaefer, and Stuart Schaefer.

A visitation will be held Thursday, April 11, from 3-6 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 271 4th St. Way, in Fond du Lac. A Mass of Christian burial will follow at 6 p.m. with the Rev. Ryan Pruess presiding. A private entombment service will take place at a later date at Chapel of the Risen Christ Mausoleum in Fond du Lac.

Mary felt that flowers should be enjoyed in life, instead of being used as an expression of sympathy after death. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Mary's name may be directed to St. Vincent de Paul Society, 303 N. Peters Ave, Fond du Lac.

The family thanks the doctors and nurses of Agnesian Healthcare who cared for Mary through her final days. They also extend a special thank you to her caring neighbors and friends, Kathy Krapfl and Mert and Bonnie Harmsen, and the staff and volunteers of Hospice Home of Hope.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 11. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Holy Family Parish - Fond du Lac
271 Fourth Street Way
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Service

APR 11. 6:00 PM (CT)

Holy Family Parish - Fond du Lac
271 Fourth Street Way
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Tribute Wall

AP

“ I am so sorry to read of Mary Ellens' passing! She was such a lovely person and a great friend...I was a classmate of Mary Ellen at SMSA. Lost touch with her...and years later I caught up with her again...she was the same kind and compassionate person....She will be missed by family and friends...

alice pickart - April 13, 2019 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of your mother. She was a great lady and compassionate friend. I was also at St. Mary's when she taught there.
Kitty (Bauer) Klein

Kathleen Klein - April 10, 2019 at 11:00 PM

KR

“ Helen Keller wrote, “All who we have loved become a part of us.” I'm thankful to have had Mary in my life and I take comfort in knowing she'll always be with me. She was the most faithful and kind person I've ever known. She shared her faith with family, friends and students. We are all the better for having had her in our lives. Rest in peace, dearest friend. Love, Kris

Kris Ries - April 10, 2019 at 06:01 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Schaefer.



April 09, 2019 at 10:14 AM

DH

“ *What a wonderful woman...she was a great teacher...a great mom, grandma, great-grandma. She will be missed by all who knew her....*

The David Hoffman Family...Leroy, WI

David and Lisa Hoffman - April 09, 2019 at 07:51 AM

RG

“ *We didn't know Mary as well as most people on this site. But we do know what a great Mom, Grandma and Great Grandma she was. She was an amazing human being and makes us wonder what more we could do for others. We want you to know how much we love this family who has been family to us since we met. Our daughter is so blessed to find such love.*

Thank you, Mary, for raising such a great group of human beings!

Love, Ray and Karen Graziano

Ray and Karen Graziano - April 08, 2019 at 10:37 AM

RZ

“ *Dear Mark, Trish, Tim, Pam, and families*

We were so sorry to hear of Mary's passing. We'll always remember the good times we had at baseball games, Ma's Place, and other gatherings. Please know we are thinking of you in your sorrow. Many hugs.

Roger and Diane Zangl

Rog and Diane Zangl - April 06, 2019 at 07:18 PM