

Death Notice

SISTER MARY CLAIRE

ND 4421

Rose Marie ENGBERSEN

Immaculate Conception Province, USA

Date and Place of Birth	October 7, 1936	Cincinnati, OH
Date and Place of Profession	August 20, 1956	Covington, KY
Date and Place of Death	November 13, 2025	Covington, KY
Date and Place of Burial	November 17, 2025	Covington, KY



“ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17)

Rose Marie Engbersen was the third child of Clarence and Ann Engbersen. She attended St. Cecilia School and Parish in Oakley, Ohio. After completing grade school, it was no surprise to Rose Marie or her family that she felt called to a religious life. She often said she felt at home when she attended Notre Dame Academy while living at Saint Joseph Heights as an aspirant. On February 2, 1954, Rose Marie entered the Sisters of Notre Dame and professed her vows on August 20, 1956. At that time, she received the name Sister Mary Claire.

Sister Mary Claire earned a BA from Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More University) and an MA from the University of Kentucky in Lexington. She began her teaching career at St. Agnes School in Bond Hill in September 1956 and primarily taught the lower grades in schools throughout the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Diocese of Covington, as well as in Lexington, Kentucky, and Birmingham, Alabama.

Sister Mary Claire's longest and most cherished ministry was at Holy Trinity Parish and School in Harlan, Kentucky, where she served as a primary teacher and principal. Soon after arriving, she and the other sisters recognized the deep needs of the Harlan community. In response, they transformed the convent's front porch into a pantry, providing food, diapers, clothing, and funds for medicine – never turning anyone away.

When the convent in Harlan closed in 2004 Sister Mary Claire said she would hold tight to her 23 years of memories of the people, the church, the school, and her students in Harlan County. “I'll take them all with me in my heart.”

Sister Mary Claire returned to Covington, Kentucky, where she continued to teach as a second-grade teacher at Holy Trinity Elementary in Newport, Kentucky. She also supported her community by playing the organ at St. Joseph Heights Chapel, a role she fulfilled until her retirement in 2017. Sister Mary Claire will be remembered most for her joyful spirit and the infectious smile she shared with everyone around her.

May Sister Mary Claire rest in the love of our good and gracious God.