



Bernice Bettendorf

October 19, 1929 - December 8, 2023

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Bernice Marion Bettendorf, a resilient soul with a devout spirit and remarkable strength, passed away on December 8, 2023, at the age of 94. Her life was a testament to determination, faith, and unwavering perseverance.

Born on October 19, 1929, in Pontiac, Bernice was the daughter of Hubert Bettendorf and Mary Zurnieden Bettendorf. Her early years were marked by adversity as she battled polio, enduring rigorous treatment that caused her to miss several years of schooling. Despite these challenges, Bernice's determination prevailed, and she graduated from The Shrine of the Little Flower High School. Her pursuit of education continued, culminating in the attainment of her Bachelor of Arts degree from Marygrove College in 1953.

Bernice was a trailblazer, navigating life with fortitude and resilience. Her career path led her to work as an insurance agent, and she adapted to life's challenges by modifying her car, allowing her to operate it with her hands due to the effects of polio.

A woman of profound faith, Bernice was a devout Catholic and a longtime member of the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica. Her commitment

to her spiritual beliefs was unwavering and served as a guiding light throughout her life.

Bernice was not only resilient but also displayed remarkable talent and creativity. She was an excellent seamstress, showcasing her skills by crafting many of her own clothes, a testament to her resourcefulness and dedication to her craft.

Bernice was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Claude Bettendorf, and her nephew Paul Bettendorf.

Friends and family are invited to bid farewell and pay their respects at her funeral on Friday, December 15, 2023. In-state visitation will be held at the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica starting at 9:30 am, followed by a Mass at 10 am. Interment will take place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home in Royal Oak.

Bernice Marion Bettendorf's legacy of resilience, faith, and determination will forever inspire those who had the privilege of knowing her. May she rest in peace, her spirit cherished in the hearts of all who were touched by her strength and grace.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

DEC 15. 10:00 AM (ET)

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica
2100 W. 12 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Burial

DEC 15. 11:30 AM (ET)

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
25800 W. 10 Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48033

Tribute Wall

JM

“ *Bernice and I were classmates as I recall when we graduated she received a special award it was for the fact with all her difficulties she never missed a day of high school. She was a remarkable person. We have a new saint.* ”

JoAnne Kolka Malcom - December 14, 2023 at 11:15 AM