

Geraldine Cariveau – MS 1982 Counseling and Guidance

Age 84 – Fargo, ND

Geraldine V. Cariveau, born February 12, 1940, as Geraldine Ann Vapton, was the firstborn of Edward and Florence (Suchla) Vaplon. Geraldine grew up on a farm west of Lidgerwood, ND. She attended grade school at St. Boniface School and graduated from Lidgerwood High School in 1958.

She then entered the Hankinson convent of the Franciscan Sisters of Dillingen, where she spent 15 happy years as a nun. During those years, Geraldine earned a degree in elementary education from Alverno College in Milwaukee, WI. She taught in Catholic schools in North Dakota and a missionary school in Tanzania, East Africa. Her memorable experiences in Tanzania included a wildlife safari on the Serengeti Plains and climbing to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

After leaving the Franciscan community Geraldine worked for St. Mary's Cathedral and Birthright in Fargo. She met Darrell while on the staff at St. Mary's and they married in 1977.

Geraldine furthered her education at NDSU, earning a master's degree in counseling. She was a member of the North Dakota Counseling Association, serving in leadership positions and as a presenter. In 2012, she received the Association's highest honor, the Glenn Dolan Award. Geraldine operated her business, FM Counseling Services, for 31 years and retired in 2018.

Her life is distinguished by a life-long devotion to the Catholic Church. She served as a religious educator for African immigrants at Holy Cross Catholic Church and was a founding member of the local chapter of the Secular Franciscan Order. She and Darrell attended daily Mass at Nativity Church, followed by coffee with their friends.

Geraldine was preceded in death by her parents, sister Dolores Bladow, brother-in-law Bob Jorgensen, and nephew Shane Bladow. She is survived by her husband Darrell, brother Arnold (Rhea, sisters Marilyn (Rodney Hoff), Colette Jorgensen and Evonne Vaplon, and nine nieces and nephews.

On Darrell's side, Geraldine was preceded in death by brother-in-law Duane (Mary Pat) and sister-in-law Nancy Larson (Myron). She is survived by sisters-in-law Pam Swenson (Lyn) and Marcia Wahtstrand (Scott), and brothers-in-law George (Marilyn), Greg (Linda) and Ross (Shiloh).