



S. Denise Stevens OSB, 87, died October 16, 2009 at Sacred Heart Monastery Care Center.

Bernice Rita Elizabeth Stevens was born on May 13, 1922 to Henry and Margaret (Eickhoff) Stevens near Bow Valley, NE. She was the youngest of ten children. When she was four, the family moved to the outskirts of Hartington, NE. She attended Holy Trinity Grade School and graduated from Holy Trinity High School shortly after her seventeenth birthday in 1939. Following her high school graduation she began working for Dr. Dorsey in Hartington for \$3.00 per week. Realizing that

her call in life was not to the nursing profession, she became a secretary and bookkeeper for local businesses in Hartington.

While make a novena for peace during World War II, S. Denise felt a call to enter religious life. After consulting with her pastor and making a lay retreat at Mount Marty that summer, she entered Sacred Heart Monastery on September 4, 1944. She became a novice on June 23, 1945 and received the name Denise. She made first profession on June 24, 1946 and perpetual profession in 1949. Her ministry included serving as librarian at Mount Marty College from 1950—1973, Monastery Procurator (business manager), 1973-1981, at Madonna Professional Care Center in Lincoln, NE, again at Mount Marty College, and most recently at the monastery in several areas including the Peace Center. She earned a BS degree in library science from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, MN and a master's degree from Rosary College in River Forest, IL.

A gentle woman, S. Denise had a love of music and literature and was a regular attendee at cultural events at Mount Marty College and within the Yankton Community. She enjoyed nature and spending time with family and friends.

S. Denise is survived by her Benedictine community; her sister, Irene Spratt, Aurora, CO; brother, Walter (Ruth) of Fort Dodge, IA; and sister-in-laws, Ann Stevens, Hartington, and Norma Stevens, Yankton as well as several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers and four sisters.

A wake service was held October 19th at 7:30 p.m. and the Funeral Mass was celebrated at 11 a.m., October 20, 2009 in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel. Burial was in the monastery cemetery.

FEDERATION OF ST. GERTRUDE

SACRED HEART MONASTERY

YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA