

S. Martin Mergen OSB, 72, died August 16, 2010 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD after a brief illness with pancreatic cancer.

Duanne Marie Mergen was born September 22, 1937 to Arther and Cecilia (Baumberger) Mergen on her grandfather's farm near Colman, SD. She was the oldest of eight children in the family. She attended Devaney Country School and graduated from St. Mary's High School in Dell Rapids in 1955. She then earned a BA degree at Mount Marty College and later a MNS from the University of South Dakota.



She entered Sacred Heart Monastery in August, 1959 and was invested as a novice the following year receiving the name of Martin. She made first profession in 1961 and final profession in 1966. Her ministry included teaching at Mount Marty High School, twenty years in administration at Mount Marty College, and most recently as Associate Director Catholic Family Services for the Diocese of Sioux Falls. While at Mount Marty she was instrumental in a variety of fund raising activities including the annual Oktoberfest. She also served on many boards and committees in the monastery, the Yankton civic community and at the state and national level and currently was serving on the boards of Avera Holy Family Hospital in Estherville, IA and Mount Marty College.

S. Martin was known for her ready smile, her love of life, her enthusiasm in her ministry especially during her years at Mount Marty College, and her love of community, family and friends.

S. Martin is survived by her Benedictine community; her mother, Ceal Mergen of Dell Rapids; brothers: Del (Carol) Zumbro Falls, MN; James (Cheri), Sioux Falls; Mark (Cheri), Dell Rapids; and sisters: Mary Ellen (Roger) Scholz, Stuart, NE; Alice (Jack) Majeres, Dell Rapids; Teresa (Jon) Brooks, Yankton; brother-in-law, Jerry Wickre, Colton, SD; numerous nieces and nephews and her many friends. She was preceded in death by her father, Arther; and her sister, Carolyn Wickre.

A wake service was held August 18 at 7:30 p.m. and the Funeral Mass was celebrated Thursday, August 19 at 10:30 a.m. in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel. Burial was in the monastery cemetery.

Memorials are requested to the Mergen Family Scholarship at Mount Marty College, Office of Advancement, 1105 W. 8th St., Yankton, SD 57078

**FEDERATION OF ST. GERTRUDE**

**SACRED HEART MONASTERY**

**YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA**