
OBITUARIES PCCR May 20, 2009

Bernadine T. Van Otegham, 86

Bernadine T. Van Otegham, age 86, of Victor, died Sunday, May 10, 2009, at Greenwood Manor Care Center in Iowa City.

A funeral service was held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 14, at St. Bridget Catholic Church in Victor, with the Rev. Brian Shepley presiding. Interment was at Calvary Cemetery in Victor.

Memorials may be directed to the Bernadine T. Van Otegham Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 485, Victor, IA 52347, to benefit the Victor Fire Department, the American Legion Auxiliary, Hospice of Johnson County, or St. Bridget Altar and Rosary Society. Memorials and condolences may be shared with the family at www.smithfh.com.



Bernadine was born the daughter of Anton C. and Anna M. (Schulte) Herman on Sept. 22, 1922, on the family farm near Harper. She was raised on the family farm, and attended St. Elizabeth Catholic Grade School and High School. She graduated Valedictorian of the 1940 St. Elizabeth High School class.

She was united in marriage to John C. Van Otegham on Oct. 10, 1949, at St. Elizabeth's Church in Harper. The couple was blessed with eight children, Mary Ann, Elaine, Lucy, Marcy, Chuck, Jim, Judy and Tony. She was a homemaker, and the couple farmed and operated a dairy farm near Victor for many years.

Bernadine was a devoted member of St. Bridget Catholic Church and St. Bridget Altar and Rosary Society. Her family, and her faith in God, was her life. She loved being a farm wife and the tranquility of being outdoors. Her enjoyments included tending to her garden, caring for the animals on the farm, reading, having coffee with her friends, and going on organized trips.

Bernadine is survived by her children, Mary Ann (John) Hohnecker of Dubuque, Lucy (Ed) Melvin of DeWitt, Marcy Van Otegham of Muscatine, Chuck (Val) Van Otegham of Hartwick, Jim (Brenda) Van Otegham of Victor, Judy (Gary) Walsh of Manhattan, Ill., and Tony (Denise) Van Otegham of Victor; 17 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; one sister, Marcella Snakenberg of Harper; three brothers, Elmer (Cecilia) Herman of Sigourney, Howard Herman of Harper, and Myron (Elva) Herman of Harper; and her sisters-in-law, Clara Herman of Sigourney, Marie DeMeyer of Belle Plaine, Helen Wauters of Victor, and Henrietta Malloy of Oxford.

Bernadine was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 55 years, John C. Van Otegham, on Sept. 16, 2005; her daughter, Elaine Van Otegham on Aug. 9, 1997; one brother, Omer Herman; and one sister, Lorene Herman.