

6HR 6-23-11

Sister Mary Eleanor Dunning OSF

Sister Mary Eleanor Dunning, 89, died May 30, 2011, at Mercy Medical Center in Clinton.

A wake with rosary and scripture service was held June 2 at The Canticle, and mass was held June 3 with the Rev. James Keenan presiding. Burial was in St. Irenaeus Cemetery in Clinton.

She was born Feb. 25, 1922, in Williamstown, Mo., the second of six children of Thomas and Lottie Schmid Dunning. She was baptized Frances Louise on April 16, 1922, at St. Michael Church in Kahoka, Mo. She attended Clark County schools and graduated from St. Patrick High School in St. Patrick, Mo., in 1940.

She entered the congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis at Mount St. Clare Convent, Clinton, on Sept. 6, 1941, and received the name Mary Eleanor at her reception on June 20, 1942. She made her first profession on August 12, 1944, and her final profession on August 12, 1947.

Sister Eleanor received her R.N. from Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, Burlington, in 1949. She graduated from Mount St. Clare College in 1952 and received a B.A. in elementary education at Viterbo College, LaCrosse, Wisc., in 1960. She held an Iowa Elementary Permanent Profes-

sional Teaching Certificate and an Iowa Nursing Certificate.

Her 51 years of ministry included both teaching and nursing. Most recently, from 1987 until her retirement, she was in Freeport, Grand Bahama, Bahama Islands, as teacher and librarian at Mary, Star of the Sea School. Together with two other Clinton Franciscans, she had opened the school in 1960 and served as principal until 1963.

She also had taught at St. Patrick's in Clinton, and St. Gerald's in Oak Lawn, Ill., as well as serving at Mount St. Clare College as house mother and nurse at Durham Hall; and as nurse at Mercy Hospital, Burlington; at Grinnell General Hospital where she opened a coronary care unit in 1970; and at Mount Alverno Home for the Aged and at Mercy Hospital, both in Clinton.

Sister Eleanor retired at The Canticle in 1999. While at The Canticle, she also volunteered as a religious education teacher and eucharistic minister, visiting the sick at the hospital and at The Alverno, and served as spiritual advisor to more than one parish.

She is survived by one sister, Doris Spence, who lives in Kahoka. She was preceded in death by her parents; and three brothers, Joseph, Thomas, Jr. and Richard, and one sister, Mary.