



Katharine Gillen

December 18, 1922 - November 13, 2010

Katharine "Kathy" Gillen, age 87 of Fort Collins, CO, died peacefully November 13, 2010 at her home. Funeral rites for Katharine will include visitation beginning at 5:00 PM Tuesday, November 23, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 300 West Mountain Avenue, Fort Collins, followed by a Prayer Vigil and Rosary at 7:00 PM. Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 9:30 AM Wednesday, November 24, at St. Joseph Church followed by Interment at Grandview Cemetery, Fort Collins. Katharine Marie Hauger was born December 18, 1922 in Kimball, SD, to Henry and Mary Frances Hauger. She graduated from Yankton High School in Yankton, SD, in 1939. While working at Novotny Florists in Yankton, Katharine met Marcel Novotny whom she married in 1943. In 1945 Marcel was killed in action during WWII. In 1946 she moved to Greeley, CO, and worked in the Hauger family's corner grocery store. Early in 1948, a mutual friend introduced Katharine to Vernon Gillen whom she married later that year. She and Vernon opened a public accounting practice in Greeley after their wedding. In 1981 Katharine moved to Fort Collins, CO, where she worked as a rectory cook at St. Joseph's and then in bookkeeping until her retirement in 2001. Kathy was a devout Catholic whose life was grounded in living her Faith. She engaged in numerous activities at both St. Peter Catholic Church in Greeley and St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Collins. As a member of the Altar and Rosary Society she enjoyed hosting wedding receptions at St. Peter's and helping with the annual bazaars at both parishes. She has also been a prayer buddy for several First Holy Communion children; an RCIA sponsor; and a Eucharistic Minister to home bound parishioners. Kathy participated in many social events at church, as well. She loved and enjoyed her family and friends tremendously. She maintained a life-long pen pal relationship with a friend in England, beginning during her early years while attending a country schoolhouse. Kathy played cards; was in a quilting circle for more than 25 years; enjoyed gardening; played scrabble; and participated in various dinner groups. She was a wonderful cook and a gracious hostess. In addition to Vernon, Kathy was preceded in death by infant daughter, Ruth Ann, and three siblings, Mary Frances, Leo and Linus Hauger. She is survived by her son, Dennis Gillen of Merced, CA; two daughters, Mary Lou (Warren E., Sr.) Lybarger of Fort Collins and Joanne (Doug) of Houston, TX; eight grandchildren, John (Suzie) Gillen, Stephen (Kris) Gillen, Joan Marie (Walter) Maitoza,

Warren E., Jr. (Cherise) Lybarger; Ryan (Breanne) Hause, Kristin (David) Bova, Kevin Hause and Amy Hause; eight great-grandchildren, Blake and Morgan Maitoza, Glenn and Kevin Gillen, Warren E. Lybarger, III, Alessandra Bova, Parker and Cadence Hause; a sister, Doris Sees of Irene, SD; two brothers, Robert Hauger of Irene, SD, and Joe Hauger of Nashville, TN, and numerous sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. The family requests that any memorial donations please be made to Pathways Hospice of Larimer County or St Jude's Research Hospital.

Comments



“ To Dennis, Mary Lou and Joanne and all the family, I am thinking of you as you celebrate the life of a really wonderful woman. My mom and dad had so much respect and love for her, and I knew from a very young age that she was a special person and lived forever in their hearts. God bless all of you. Love, Jeanie.

Jean Novotny - November 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ We felt so fortunate to have Kathy as our bookkeeper for Toll Equipment for many years. She was a lady of great honor and dedication. Her sense of humor was the icing on the cake. We want to extend our heartfelt condolences to the family.

Tom Toll - November 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Katharine, you will always hold a special place in my heart. You are a very sweet and caring person. I will miss you. Love Pamela

Pamela Brinkman - November 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ im so sad
as catherine my aunt
was such a sweet gentle caring person
she was my moms best friend
intesting story
a few years ago catherin gave
my sister marilyn a box
of my uncle marcel's her hubby
from WWII she would never open it

yes she was part of
novoty family

wes 'bud' novotny - November 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Girls~

It's been many years and for that I am truly sorry. But even more sorry that I didn't get to know Aunt Kathy better. I do remember her soft, warm smile and that will never leave me. She truly did, 'live her faith..!'.
God bless you all during this difficult time and know that I am praying for you and yours and sending our love.

In Christ, Terri

Terri & Dave McCormack - November 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Aunt Kathy will always have a special place in my heart. Her birthday she shared with my granddaughter, Claire, which she would remind me of so many times. She is now home with our Father, Lord. Thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time. Margy

Margy Toro - November 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Aunt Kathy. She was one of the sweetest souls I've ever known. Heaven just gained another angel!

Linda Brown (Lindy Steinhausen) - November 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Kathy was a wonderful, loving, generous person and always one of my favorite Aunts. She will certainly be missed, even though I had not seen her in the past few years.

Louise Steinhausen - November 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ To Kathy's Family:

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to you all. Kathy, Blanche Yakima and my Mom (Peggy Santich) used to be such a tight group. Every swimming event my mom entered, Kathy and Blanche were always there. When we had a family gathering, Kathy was always included . . .because she was also family to us.

I know Kathy will be deeply missed by your family and ours. I wish you all God's peace and solace.

God bless,
Jamie Jensen

Jamie (Santich) Jensen - November 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ To Joanne, Mary Lou, Dennis, and all your wonderful children and grandchildren:

We were so sad to hear of your mom's passing. And yet, what a full and inspirational life she lived. I was fortunate to see her once or twice at Mom's house over the past several years, and her smile could always light up a room.

There are so many memories from our childhood years, especially the Fourth of July parade, and many lovely Christmases we visited your home. I still remember the sour cream fudge that she made with real sour cream right from the farm! That was true ambrosia!

She lived a fuller life than many of us will ever know ourselves, it sometimes seems. What a wonderful role model you all had. She will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Our best to all, with love, the Deans

Donna Dean - November 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM