

2016

Sister Bernadette (Mary Henry) Weinberger, OP
Born to earthly life: May 7, 1925
Religious profession: February 2, 1946
Entered eternal life: April 1, 2017

*Let the little children come to me.
It is to such as these
that the kingdom of God belongs.*

Mark 10, 13

On May 7, 1925, Henry Weinberger and his wife Bernadette Koch of Leroy, Wisconsin, welcomed a daughter whom they named Bernadette. She was soon baptized at Saint Andrew's Parish.

She was fourteen when she entered the Racine Dominican community as an aspirant on August 30, 1939, and was immediately put to work at Saint Anne's Home, the congregation's residence for elderly ladies, then located on Thirteenth Street. In the fall of 1940 she was sent to assist with food service for the sisters at Saint Patrick's in Racine.



Reception Day, 1941

Her postulancy months in 1941 were followed by her reception of the habit on August 17 of that year, at which she received the religious name Sister Mary Henry of Jesus. She would resume her baptismal name in 1968.



Baby Bernadette

Sister Mary Henry's second year of novitiate was interrupted by the onset of tuberculosis in June of 1943, for which she was hospitalized at Sunny Rest Sanitorium on the southwest side of the city. Then,

after a time back with her family, she re-entered the novitiate on October 7, 1945. She pronounced her first vows on February 2, 1946, after which she was missioned to Saint Clement's in Center Line, Michigan for a year. She next served in the motherhouse kitchens for two years, and then for two more years at Saint Francis Xavier in Merrill,



*Sisters Mary Henry, Ann Joachim (Emily) Oszewski,
Agnes Ballweg, about 1947*



With her family, about 1955

Wisconsin. She would celebrate her final profession on February 2, 1952.

Assignments followed at the motherhouse (1951 to 1955), Our Lady of the Oaks in Pewaukee (1955 to 1959), and Detroit's Nativity (1959 to 1961).

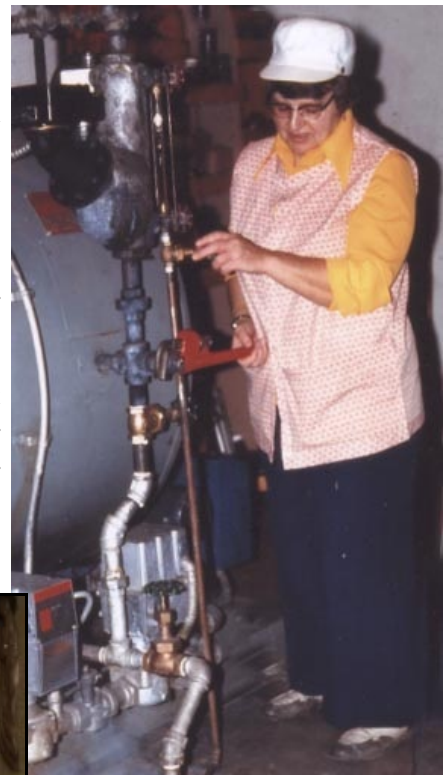
In 1961, she moved to Dominican College, where she took up ministry in the kitchen, participating in summer food service workshops there (1963) and at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan (1962). While at Dominican, she made it a point to spend time perusing current

periodicals in the library so that she would be able to hold her own in conversations in that academic environment.

During her 1965-to-1987 tenure back at the motherhouse (first Park Avenue and then Siena Center), Bernadette shifted her concentration from the kitchens to the physical plant, earning her certification in boiler engineering in 1971.



About 1950



The engineer at work



In the bell choir with Sisters Dorothy LeNoble, Jane Weiss, Mary Vaughn, and Donna Marie Koenigsknecht

Meanwhile, she was befriending an Egyptian family in the neighborhood and regularly babysitting their children. She accompanied them on a visit to Cairo in July of 1987 and stayed on for about a year to care for their children. Later, after a four-month break at Siena Center, she returned for a more



Caps for newborns

prolonged care-giving ministry, until the fall of 1990.

Bernadette spent her final years at Siena Center, most closely within a group of sisters from the various domestic departments who established a gathering space in a back room near the kitchens. One of her pleasures was playing with the Siena Center bell choir. Another was knitting layette sets for newborns. And, with her close friends, she was a

regular at Brewers' games in Milwaukee.

Health issues necessitated her move to Lakeshore Manor in October of 2014. It was there that she died peacefully in her sleep late in the night of April 1, 2017.

Bernadette was survived by her brother-in-law Lawrence Zimmer, sister-in-law Dolores Weinberger, and nieces and nephews. Her parents, as well as siblings Henry, Joseph, John, Margaret, Mary, Eugenia, and Anna had preceded her into eternity.



60th Jubilee, 2006

Her funeral liturgy was celebrated at Siena Center on Friday, April 7, with Father Ed Cook presiding and Sister Rosaire Lucassen preaching the homily. Burial followed in the community plot at Holy Cross Cemetery in Caledonia.



2016



Brewers' fans Bernadette, Vivian Giddings, Donna Marie Koenigsknecht



Golden Jubilee, 2001