



Mrs. Agnes Corrigan

November 1, 1927 - March 11, 2021

Agnes Corrigan peacefully left the world she loved so much on March 11, 2021, after 4 days in hospice care. Her family, including many nieces and nephews, had the opportunity to express their love and gratitude either in person or via video chat during those days.

The youngest of 12, and the last of her generation, Agnes always valued family. She will be welcomed to Heaven by her husband Jack, her daughter Kathleen, her parents Henry and Blanche (Taylor) Schneider, her siblings: Ethel, Leo, Paul, Lucille, Henry Mark, Blanche, Dan, Lila, Emily, George, and Loretta Rose, along with all her in-laws and many friends.

She will be missed by her remaining 6 children and their spouses; John (Gelen) Corrigan - Chesapeake, VA, Maureen (Paul) Simon - Manitowoc, Ann (Jerry) Fons - Waukesha; George (Tiffany) Corrigan - Stoughton, Jean (Bill) Schmitzer - Rice Lake, and Mary (Russell Martiens) Corrigan – Seattle, WA.

She will also be missed by her 9 grandchildren and 2 great granddaughters: Scott (Christina Coronado) Corrigan – Syracuse, NY, Kimberly (Jordan) Guraya - Bethesda, MD, Camilla (Stuart) Hannig – Concord, CA, Mary (Luis Galimberti) Simon and daughter Jade - Whitefish Bay, Sarah Fons (Shane Crowley) - Cork, Ireland, Dan Fons and Andrew Fons - Waukesha, Soren (Talia Beebe) Poulsen and daughter Ella – Spokane, WA, and Dane Poulsen (Nicole Clay-Austin) – Seattle, WA.

Agnes was born Nov. 1, 1927, grew up in Rice Lake WI, and received a BA in Philosophy from Marquette University. During high school and college, she enjoyed an amazing array of employment experiences: radio operator, factory worker alongside German POWs, waitress in tourist locations in CO, AZ, and WY. Her love of travel and adventure came from her siblings. She encountered a stunning variety of natural beauty and human characters, including opera and movie stars. Many of these are described in her funny and wry memoirs that her family looks forward to sharing!

Through friends from Marquette, Agnes got to know fellow alumnus Jack Corrigan. Both were teaching in rural Wisconsin high schools at the beginning of their courtship, Agnes taught English, and Jack taught History. They were wed in 1954, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rice Lake, WI. Their married life began with them living at a Boy Scout Camp since Jack had switched careers. Scouting took them from Two Rivers, Wisconsin through Jacksonville, Illinois, and Bay City Michigan, before coming full circle to Manitowoc in 1967, where Jack began to practice law in 1971.

Though Agnes was busy with 7 children she never stopped seeking knowledge and meaning in life. She was active in book clubs, community theater and the American Association of University Women. She took courses in theology, attended retreats, and corresponded with family and friends from all over the country. Together Agnes and Jack were active in their parish, bridge clubs and CFM (Christian Family Movement.)

Life took a turn in 1974 when Jack suffered a fatal heart attack. Agnes was only 46, with children aged 9 to 18. Her faith, friends, and family carried her through that grief. The next year she began working as the first lay Director of Religious Education at St. Paul Parish in Manitowoc. Agnes prepared hundreds of children for the Sacraments and was active in local and state-wide organizations promoting lay ministry.

Another chapter in her life began in 1984 when Agnes responded to God's call to work with the vulnerable. She received a Master's in Pastoral Ministry at Loyola of Chicago and was employed in the Milwaukee Archdiocese at St. Boniface, St. Elizabeth, and St. Gaul. She was instrumental in programs that supported marginalized women and families and created a program to bring literature and the arts to children at meal programs. She remained an active member at St. Martin de Porres.

Her passion for social justice continued after she retired. Agnes remained active as an advocate for programs that helped to 'level the playing field' in many organizations such as Project Return, Table of the Saints, MICA, and Interfaith. She participated in meetings, gave community presentations, contributed financially and showed up in person at marches, and rallies into her 90's.

Agnes shared her deep appreciation for arts, literature and travel with her family and friends. She took her children and grandchildren to plays, symphonies, and art museums; she read poetry; she gave gifts of wonderful books. Agnes rejoiced when her children and grandchildren traveled, loving to hear of the places and people they met.

An older book that Agnes recently rediscovered is *Honey, I Love* by Eloise Greenfield. The

title poem describes the simple things a child loves. Agnes loved travel, trees and theology, poetry, prose and politics, art, theater and music, and perhaps most of all, people. She delighted in the little things, laughing at the incongruities of life, and sharing that joy with those around her.

The family is being served by Northwest Funeral Chapel. A funeral and celebration of life are planned at St. Martin de Porres Parish when it is safer for people to travel and gather.

Cemetery

Northwest Cremation Services

6630 W. Hampton Ave.
Milwaukee, WI, 53218

Events

SEP 11 **Mass of Christian Burial** 12:00PM

St Martin De Porres Church
128 W. Burleigh Street, Milwaukee, WI, US

SEP 11 **Celebration of Life** 05:00PM - 09:00PM

Skylight Music Theatre
158 N. Broadway Street, Milwaukee, WI, US, 53202

SEP 11 **Dinner will be served Please RSVP to celebration@corrigan.pro** 06:00PM

Skylight Music Theatre
158 N. Broadway Street, Milwaukee, WI, US, 53202

SEP 13 **Interment Prayer Service** 10:00AM

Evergreen Cemetery
Michigan Avenue, Manitowoc, WI, US, 54220

Comments



“ I sat next to Agnes for many years at St. Martin De Porres Parish. She was a kind and gentle person and made friends easily. Some years ago when I was the speaker at the Martin Luther King prayer service she told me many times how excited that she was about attending this and hearing my message. Not only did it humble it, but was something I never forgot.

Before Covid, Agnes asked me to read a book written by a local author, Soul Song which was about a group of Black women who sang around the country and overseas to make money to essentially build Fisk University. Agnes hosted a lunch with the author, herself and I to talk about a gathering of St. Martin's and All Saints and the author for a discussion about race relations. We also discussed picking 2 high schools for the same reason, but the pandemic put a hold on such a timely idea. But, that was Agnes - always seeing the times and doing things to make our world a better place!

She is a soul that will be missed!

Br. Bob Smith

Bob Smith - March 17, 2021 at 07:03 PM



“ I was sorry to hear of Agnes’s death. The Corrigan/Kaufman association was from long ago. Agnes was a wonderful Mom. I remember a airplane trip (small airplane) to Cheboygan MI to help with you kids. Your Mom must have been getting ready to move to Manitowoc. That was a long time ago. I also remember lots of great scouting times together. Do you remember Camp Sinawa? Those were the days. I am sure that your Mom is now enjoying her time with your father and sister. She certainly earned her place in heaven. May God bless your family with peace and love.
Nancy (Kaufman) Gamble

Nancy Gamble - March 17, 2021 at 03:21 PM



“ Agnes was a remarkable woman, a good friend of the five or six of us that sat around a table for coffee after the 9am Mass at St. Martin de Porres. Agnes was always in the discussion every Sunday. She was right up-to-date on everything happening in Milwaukee - the church, sports or politics. And wonderful stories, like the bird that frequented her porch balcony - and laid an egg in a flower pot - and it hatched - the baby bird lived. Everyone and the birds loved Agnes. My wife, Jackie, noted that Agnes loved the song Oh, What A Wonderful Child. We all miss you Agnes, so much.
Lou Davit

Jackie - March 18, 2021 at 12:35 PM



“ Agnes was definitely a remarkable woman. She was my neighbor when she lived in the Parkside at Estabrook apartments in Glendale. I've never met a nicer person.

Bruce Smith - March 21, 2021 at 10:33 PM