



## Marilyn Olsen

September 1, 1920 - March 9, 2009

Visitation for Marilyn A. Olsen, 88, of Kankakee, will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Teresa Catholic Church. Burial will be in All Saints Cemetery, Bourbonnais. Memorials may be made to Aquinas Catholic Academy, Provena St. Mary's Hospital, or to Bishop McNamara Catholic High School. She died Monday (March 9, 2009) at the Miller Center. Mrs. Olsen had been a first grade teacher at St. Teresa Grade School for 15 years and the director of Lisieux Pastoral Center for five years. She was born Sept. 1, 1920, in Morris, the daughter of Edward and Marquita Berner Garrity. Her husband, Herman B. Olsen Jr., whom she married June 22, 1941, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Morris, died March 3, 2002. She received her education at St. Angela Academy, Morris High School, Northern Illinois University and a bachelor of science degree from Governors State University. She was a volunteer at Bishop McNamara Catholic High School, Provena St. Mary's Hospital, and a reading tutor for neighborhood children and children of St. Martin's School. She was a member of St. Teresa Catholic Church, where she was named CCW Woman of the Year, a Eucharistic Minister, reader and CCD teacher. Surviving are five daughters and four sons-in-law, Marquita and Charles Carmouche of Houston, Texas, Nancy Olsen of Denver, Colo., Paula and Bruce Hodak of Lexington, N.C., Chris and Larry Hodak of Chicago, Beth and Karl Provost of Kankakee; 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Lucy Novotne and Mary June

Enger of Morris. Deceased are her parents; stepmother, Ethel Garrity; and one sister, Sister M. Yvonne Garrity, CSC. Marilyn had many loves but most of all she loved to play bridge and the infamous "Grandma's Game" with her family and friends. She enjoyed ballroom dancing with her husband, Herman. Marilyn loved to camp with her family at Warren Dunes, Mich. and many different sites throughout the United States. She loved to remodel her home and was dedicated to the upper Riverview neighborhood. Parties in her home would include self-made floral arrangements, her sister Yvonne playing the piano during the musical hat game and her ever present "can of fun." She was passionate in teaching her many first-grade students to read and was extremely active in her parish.

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



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**Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes** - December 07, 2010 at 03:15 PM



“ A note particularly to Mary Beth on the loss of your Mom. I½I have many fond memories of her from our childhood and as her student. I½I remember she used to let us hang out in the "woody" when it was cold during recess. I½What a wonderful lady. I½My thoughts and prayers are with you.<br><br>##imported-begin##Lori Norden##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ I have thought of Marilyn often and tried to find her to get back in touch. I don't get to the area much any more and very sad when my friends e-mailed that they had finally found her for me but it was in the obituaries. Marilyn was like a second mother to me. I was newly married and away from family. It was only my 3rd year teaching and she was a wonderful role model and true Christian. I will keep your family in my prayers.##imported-begin##Sue Kerouac##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ Marilyn was an Awesome Lady. Always cheerful. Always looked great. She will be missed. I would see her from time to time at St Teresa's church and she would always say hi, Great Lady.##imported-begin##Terri Scheppler##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ I was enormously saddened by the news of Mrs. Olson's passing. She'd been one of the most influential people in my life. I remember her to be an extraordinary human being, full of kindness, compassion and love. <br><br>I have hundreds of fond memories of my days in her first grade class room. She taught me how to pray. She had a genuflector in her room, so we could kneel and pray to Mary on a daily basis. She had a little store where we could learn the concepts of money. She taught me how to read. She took us on a field trip to her house one day, and I saw the workings of her home life. <br><br>She was truly one of the happiest people I've ever encountered. I'd seen her a few times since I'd moved from Kankakee years ago, and she still looked absolutely radiant. I still remember her smell, a hint of perfume and the subtle scent of her makeup.<br><br>Mrs. Olson was one of God's very own who walked the earth and left a lasting impact on many of us. May God give her family peace and a great sense of joy for having such a remarkable woman in their family.##imported-begin##Julie Yovich Dankovich##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ Marilyn was one of my mother - Ruth Snyder's - oldest and dearest friends. I remember those weekend Bridge parties very well <G> Marilyn and Herman were always so kind to me. She will be missed.##imported-begin##Nan Wagner##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ NULL##imported-begin##NULL##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ We thank you for sharing your mother with our Butterfield family. ĩ½She was always a delight. ĩ½We have wonderful memories of her time with us. ĩ½I pray that you may find peace and comfort during this difficult time. ĩ½I am sorry I could not come to the wake but I with you with you thought.<br><br>Sincerely yours,<br><br>Cookie Longtin##imported-begin##Cookie Longtin##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ Marilyn was a cherry outgoing woman who always made one feel good to be around her. ĩ½She had a heart of gold and was always a teacher in all she did.<br><br>I shall never forget her.<br><br>she asked me to make a cake once for a supper at her home. I told her I wasn't a baker so she patiently sat and explained how I was to make this cake.<br><br>I tried to floolw the recipe and what she had told me to do.<br><br>When I brought the cake, she said she had never seen one like it and hid it from view as it was awful next to hers. We enjoyed a laugh about it many times.<br><br>She was a beuatiful Christian woman I plan to see in heaven.##imported-begin##Genevieve Arnold##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ Mrs. Olsen was always such a joy to be around. I had the pleasure of seeing her on my paper route and hanging around a St. Teresa. She will be dearly missed.##imported-begin##Andy Williams##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ One of the BEST teachers I ever had from 1st grade through 4 yrs of college.<br><br>I still have vivid memories of my time with Mrs. Olsen from 1st grade. Her classroom was an exciting, vibrant place and she engaged her students like very few teachers I ever had after. She taught me at an early age to love learning and participate in class. The news of her passing has caused me to stop my day and remember my childhood which she was an early, important part of. My sympathies to the family. You were blessed with a great mom!##imported-begin##Jeff Chaney##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ KNOW THAT OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU##imported-begin##TERRY & KATHY TROUTMAN##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ Mrs. Olsen was my first grade teacher at St. Teresa school and I can truly say that she was the greatest teacher I ever had. It was obvious that she loved every student in her classroom. I always think of her when I see "Clifford the Big Red Dog" books or "red hots" candy because she would pass out a few pieces of the candy when we did a good job. I would like to express my condolences to the family and I will be praying for you, but please remember that you were blessed to have Mrs. Olsen in your life.##imported-begin##Keisha Randle Smith##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ Sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. When I saw her name so many memories of St. Teresa days came flooding back. Your mother was such a gentle person. I do remember a couple times getting a ride in The Woody when the weather was bad. Our sympathy to all. Sincerely Bill and Donna Casino##imported-begin##Donna Palmer Casino##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ Mrs. Olsen was a wonderful, nurturing teacher. I have very good memories of being in her class. She will be in my prayers, as will your family.##imported-begin##Kathleen McCawley Brulc##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ Mrs. Olsen was my first teacher at St. Teresa. And like everyone's first teacher, she was perfect. She rarely raised her voice, she was always nice...and there were the Red Hots. She would give those to us when we did well. I hadn't thought about that in decades until my brother Brandon just reminded me. Mrs. Olsen always asked after us long after we were gone from the school. She was one of the finest teachers the Kankakee area has ever known, and all of her former students will remember her fondly.##imported-begin##George Washington III##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ Mrs. Olson, Marilyn, started each of our six children on their educational journey at St. Teresa School and there is proof that they couldn't have had a better learning foundation. i;½The Olson's were good neighbors to our mother Mrs. Johnson on Nelson Avenue. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.##imported-begin##Lawrence and Armeline McCawley##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ Girls<br><br>We were so sorry to hear about your Mom.<br><br>I sorry we will not be able to attend because of my Moms health. i;½Our thoughts and prayers are with you.<br><br>Pat and Dennie Fosen<br><br>Wes and Dixie Ratcliff<br><br>Dorothy Ratcliff##imported-begin##Pattie Fosen##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ *½Mrs. Olsen was a wonderful teacher. I Have very fond memories of dear Mrs. Olsen. It has been 35+ years since I sat in her class. Over the years, our paths have crossed many times. Mrs. Olsen always remembered me. After catching up for a few minutes, she would never neglect to ask "How's your reading Honey?" She was such a genuine person and had great passion for her students. Throughout my education, I have had many teachers, but Mrs. Olsen has always been on my short list of favorites. She taught me about our Lord and prepared me to receive the sacrament for the first time. For many reasons, I no-longer am a Catholic, however, I am a follower of Christ and I know that Mrs. Olsen and I will cross paths again in Glory, and after catching up she won't neglect to say "So, how is your reading, honey?" <br><br><br><br>My prayers are with all of you. I know the Holy Spirit will be near and will be a comfort to you all.##imported-begin##Llora O'Neil Kranich##imported-end##*

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ *Mrs. Olsen was my first grade teacher at St. Teresa's. I will never forget her! In fact i feel like i have almost forgotten everyone that i had, from that grade up, but Mrs Olsen left such a wonderful impression on me, i remembered her immediately when i saw her name and face. She was the very best, and the world would be a much better place if there were more Mrs. Olsens in this world! I was blessed to have known her!##imported-begin##Carrie Sicard Flynn##imported-end##*

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ Mrs. Olsen was my 1st grade teacher. ĩ½I am now 45 yrs. old and I cherished her as a teacher. ĩ½My thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.##imported-begin##Tami Clausen (Benjamin)##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM



“ You where a joy to care for and fun to be around. ĩ½You always brighten my day with your smile and your kisses. ĩ½You will be missed. ĩ½Your job on earth is done now your new job has begun. ĩ½Teach the children in heaven your wisdom and grace. ĩ½May God be with you.##imported-begin##Debbie Sisk##imported-end##

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March 10, 2009 at 12:14 PM