



M. Eleanor Kuntz

February 14, 1935 - March 16, 2009

Mildred Eleanor Kuntz, 74, of Kankakee, died today (March 16, 2009) at Riverside Medical Center. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Teresa Catholic Church. Burial will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family wishes. If there ever was an epitome for the word mother, that would be Eleanor Kuntz. Proof of this is her excellent upbringing of 10 children, together with Gerald Kuntz. Her nurturing ways and enormous capacity to love has sparkled through her very existence. Her unparalleled devotion to her family is equaled only by her service to the church, the community, and the religion through which she has lived as a shining example of God's faithful daughter. She will be thoroughly missed. Mrs. Kuntz was a teacher's aide in the Bright Beginnings Program at Mark Twain School, school secretary and actively involved in the school's PTA for which she was recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education in 1976 with an Award for Education Excellence. Mrs. Kuntz was also an active member of St. Teresa Catholic Church as a lector coordinator, Eucharistic minister, reader, English as a Second Language (ESL) tutor, CCD teacher, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) leader, and CCW (Council of Catholic Women) board member. She enthusiastically supported her children through many seasons and thousands of sporting events at Kankakee Jaycees Little League, Elks PONY League, Eastside Bulldogs Football, Eastridge High School and Bishop McNamara

Catholic High School. Surviving are her husband of 56 years, Gerald E. Kuntz Sr.; nine sons and one daughter, Frank Edward and Olivia of Las Vegas, Gerald Jr. and Marla of Bourbonnais, John of Poulsbo, Wash., Joseph and Renee of San Antonio, Texas, Thomas and Maureen of Aurora, Phillip and Kathy of Fishers, Ind., Matthew and Lisa of Western Springs, Lt. Col. Patrick and Renata of Heidelberg, Germany, Michael and Sandy of St. Anne, and Mary Katherine and Douglas Jones of Kankakee. Surviving besides her 10 children are 26 grandchildren, Brad, Jill, Kellie, Keith, Sarah, Aaron, Sammy, Abigail, Elizabeth, Tommy, Kevin, Brian, Ryan, Clay, Rebecca, Joshua, Alexander, Austin, Matthew, Andrew, William, Jake, Ben, Camille, Graham, and Landon; two great-grandchildren, Grant and Delaney; brother, Joseph Russell of Houston, Texas; and sister-in-law, Blanche Russell of Houston. Deceased are her parents, Robert and Mildred Bly Russell; three brothers, Robert Russell Jr., Richard "Dick" Russell, John Russell; and daughter-in-law, Catherine F. Kuntz. Her life's devotion was to a compassionate belief in God, her faithful volunteerism to St. Teresa Catholic Church and Mark Twain School and her tireless dedication to raising her family. She loved all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren dearly. She volunteered enthusiastically to any meaningful cause or person in need. Eleanor was passionate about helping the children in the Bright Beginnings Program at Mark Twain get a good start on learning. One of her students presented her with a certificate in 1999 for Best Teacher of the Year -- a thank-you for providing inspiration and guidance to young children, something she excelled at her entire life.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 03:16 PM



“ To all of our friends in the Kuntz family our thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of loss.##imported-begin##David Hinderliter##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ So sorry to hear of the loss of your wonderful mother. ĩ½My prayers are with you and all your family. God Bless, Carol##imported-begin##Carol Wylie##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Dear Family,

It was so wonderful to work with Eleanor. ĩ½What a great time we always had. ĩ½I loved to just sit and talk with her and listen to all her stories, and boy did she have a lot of them. She will be greatly missed. ĩ½You are all in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Chris Kilbride McGovern##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ NULL##imported-begin##Debbie Rouse-Raines##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ I truly cannot imagine who would not remember this pillar of the community. In fact, I'd venture to guess that a good majority of Kankakeeans will either remember her or have played in her yard at one time or another and THAT speaks volumes about the kind of gentle and caring soul she was. Always involved in one way or another in community service. May GOD in his great mercy console you, the family, in your hour of sorrow. But rest assured, she is with the Lord.

GOD's peace

Brian Sr.##imported-begin##Brian K Zasada Sr##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ To a woman who knew what was important in this world; her Children. May you help out the Kids in Heaven, give my Daughter a kiss and hug, and know that in each step that your Children take, and your Grandkids take, you are with them.

Peace,

Diane Conmy##imported-begin##Diane##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ our prays are with you##imported-begin##van&kay(spadafino) wegner,annette(spadafino) green , scott& tina##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ The wonderful mother of 10 fine children is a loss to the entire community. *½*Though I only know her son, Matt, and his wife and their children, I can see the kindness and care of Eleanor in all of them. *½*

They are her living legacy.##imported-begin##Janet Barnstable##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy.##imported-begin##John Johnson/Ginger McCormick##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Revelation 21:4
"And God will wipe away every tear from *½*their eyes: there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."##imported-begin##Myron A. Williams Sr.##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers with the loss of Mrs. Kuntz. *½*She was a gracious lady with a wonderful, warm smile that made one always feel welcome. *½*May your memories of her keep her spirit safe in your hearts. *½*She will be missed by many. *½*

##imported-begin##Rose & Gary Mitchell##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ I am so sorry but just think shes at home now no more pain and she is at peace now. She will be sadly missed that is a sure thing. And you will all have good memories of her. I wish that there was a word I could say to take the pain away, but like they told me in time will get better. And losing my son to a car accident I can honestly say that you will have good times and bad and when you have a bad moment just think af all the good times. ĩ¿½###imported-begin##Vicky Fortin##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Our prayers and thoughts are with you. ĩ¿½Mrs. Kuntz always had that smile and kind words. ĩ¿½It was my reward having taught Mary. ĩ¿½A wonderful family has been raised by Ma and Pa Kuntz.##imported-begin##Francis J. & Carolyn Gianotti##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ The outpouring of love and sympathy from Mom?s family and friends has been overwhelming. We are eternally grateful for all the wonderful things that everyone has had to share. Mom in her quiet manner would thank each and every one of you from the bottom of her heart. Thank You.##imported-begin##John Kuntz##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Dear Gerald, Mary and the Kuntz Family,

I was so saddened to hear of the loss of your wife and mother. ¹/₂The obituary, a wonderful tribute, said it all. ¹/₂She was a friend to all and a woman of faith and love. ¹/₂Her family and the community will miss her. ¹/₂May the peace which comes from the memories of love shared, comfort you now and in the days ahead. ¹/₂Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincerely,
Susan and Joe Lacaeyse

##imported-begin##Susan ¹/₂and Joe Lacaeyse##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ I am so very sorry for your loss. You all are in my thoughts and prayers. What a wonderful tribute to Eleanor than all of you! It was an honor knowing her.

Take care and God Bless you.

Sybille##imported-begin##Sybille Fortin##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ To Jerry and Marla,

Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family on the loss of your mother.##imported-begin##Craig Culver##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Eleanor was all that was written in her obituary and more. ¹/₂As teachers of her sons, we can testify to her mothering skills and to her involvement in school activities.

She will be mourned and missed.##imported-begin##Terry and Toni Diel##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Sorry we couldn't make the wake. Eleanor wa an Awesome lady!!##imported-begin##Terri Scheppler##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ My mother died one week before Mrs.Kuntz

She went to heaven to get things ready for your wife and your mom. They are having a good time rehashing St. Teresa's where Mom taught some i ½of the Kuntz boys and i ½i ½I believe my dad Herm worked with Mr. Kuntz at Com Ed God Bless you all and hold you in the palm i ½of his hand##imported-begin##Paula Olsen Hodak##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ your mom & dad were always nice to me.you treated me like one of your own,I will never forget that.as long as i live.LOVE YOU ALL!!! i ½BOBBY Z.##imported-begin##robert l. zasada jr.##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Our thoughts are with you during this time of grieving.##imported-begin##Jason Vaughn##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ So sorry to hear about Eleanor's passing. i ½My sympathy to you,Gerald, and your beautiful family

Mary E.##imported-begin##Mary E.Kuntz Hoover##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ My heart is broken to hear your gone, but I will never forget your kindness and love to others!!

Love,

Samy##imported-begin##Samara Jansen##imported-end##

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“ Jerry, Marla, Brad, Jill & Families,

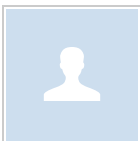
I am so sorry for the loss of your mom and grandmother. I hope your wonderful memories of her bring you through this time of sadness. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Chris Vaughn##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ i am sorry for the family loss. mrs. kuntz will be missed by many people.##imported-begin##anita##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ I lived next door to the Kuntzs when I was growing up. Most of the boys were out of the house by the time I met Mr. and Mrs. Kuntz. Mary and I became friends. Mrs. Kuntz was such a wonderful person. I'd like to send my condolences to the family. She was such an example of God's love. I'm sure we'll see her again rejoicing with the Father.##imported-begin##Jennifer (Griffin) Caldwell##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ To a very special woman who was always there for the three little girls next door. I always enjoyed the grilled cheese sandwiches you made for us. Your love will live on forever in the many lives you have touched. Dawn (Griffin) Foelske

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ We are so sorry to hear about Mrs Kuntz. She would buy calenders from my boys every year at Bishop Mac . Mr Kuntz would always invite us into the the house and Mrs Kuntz would show us all of her pictures of the children and their spouses.They would send my boys home with lots of candy and 1 can of pop. She told me she was getting very tired. SO SHE IS IN GODS CARE !!! LOVE THE GRANT FAMILY Oletha and Anthony Grant Sr.

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ "Amazing woman, amazing FAMILY....."
God Bless the Kuntz family. Debra Moore Kinley

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ I knew Mrs. Kuntz since I was about 12years old. I played with mary and the other girls in the neighborhood. She was a special Mom to everybody. I am grateful she was able to teach my older two children in preschool. My sympathy and heart goes out to her wonderful family. An gela Guzman

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ I just heard about Mrs. Kuntz whom I have know since I was a student at Mark Twain 39 years ago. She was a wonderful person and an inspiration to ALL who knew her. She is truly the definition of the word MOM, WIFE...

I often thought about her and the Kuntz family over the years. I remember hanging out with Pat over at the house many times after school and she always welcomed me with open arms. I remember her in the class room at Mark Twain. She and my mom were friends through volunteering at school. I know how it is to lose a mom because I lost mine 12 years ago...so my heart goes out to the family...

She will truly be missed.

Love

Julie###imported-begin##Julie Shumaker###imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Dear Phil, Kathy, and Family,

I am so sorry to hear of your loss. ĩ¿½Your mother was an amazing woman. ĩ¿½I now know first hand the effort it takes to raise a large family, and I have often thought about your family over the years. ĩ¿½I greatly admire your mother's dedication to her children, her church, and her community. ĩ¿½The world needs more women like her.

You are all in our prayers.

Respectfully,

Angel###imported-begin##Angel Mann Warner###imported-end##

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“ I heard of her passing too late to attend the services, but wanted to share my thoughts and prayers with her family. Eleanor was an amazing woman who had been part of my own life for over 40 years, always watching out and over us, always encouraging us to do our best. I often marveled at how she managed to do so much. As a young parent, I once asked her how she had survived so many children, and her response was, "I was always thankful they were boys." As the parent of a daughter, I completely understood.

Not that Mary wasn't adored. The entire neighborhood had celebrated when she was born - the only female Kuntz other than Eleanor! We weren't sure such a thing was possible! I knew Eleanor as a child, a teen, a young parent, a fellow employee and as a neighbor. She taught me a little more with each role and each passing year. Knowing how much I will miss just knowing she's there to reach out to at any time, I can only imagine the void her passing will leave in the hearts of her family. My prayers will be with you all.##imported-begin##Pam Threlkeld##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Dear Jerry and family. ĩ½Our hearts and prayers are with you at this time. ĩ½May God bless you and your family. ĩ½Delaine and Jake##imported-begin##Ken & Delaine Jacobs##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Dear Matt,

Though we never met your mother, knowing you as a dear friend has magnified her legacy. In reading the words written about her life and her love for God, the church, her family, and school children, there is no doubt that those same qualities are firmly rooted in you.

You are a living testament of her greatest loves. A son cannot give his mother a greater tribute. May God give you and your family comfort and peace as you honor her memory.

Rick and Deb
Glass

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you, Mary, and your entire family. Your Mother was an exceptional and wonderful woman. She always made me feel like part of the family. I will be thinking of you and your family during this difficult time. Love, Jeannie

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ I will always remember the warmth and affection Mrs. Kuntz showed me when I visited her and her family. Even with ten kids of her own, she never thought twice about going out of the way to make sure I was taken care of. I am proud and honored to have known Mrs. Kuntz and she and her family are in my thoughts and prayers.

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all. I Have many fond memories of spending time down at your house. I learned to shoot good baskets there. My parents pretty much always knew where to find me..watching the game in your driveway.

Mrs. Kuntz was a wonderful mother and she certainly lived out her faith in front of her children. I recall feeling very safe there and thinking that it was a great place to be. So God Bless you all. I know that you can take comfort in knowing that Eleanor is with her Lord. Take care,
i½Llori O'Neil Kranich###imported-begin##Llora O'Neil Kranich###imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Everyone new the family with 9 boys and then the lucky little girl that had to put up with them. i½She will be missed, we pray for all of you.###imported-begin##Bob Moore & family###imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Hi Gerald

Don't know if you remember me but went to Herscher High 2 yrs. and rode the bus with you and your twin sister. But am sorry to hear about your wife I saw the obit and it was already 8: pm and couldn't make please accept our Condolences. I would have preferred to have been there in person.

Florence and Al Shelby###imported-begin##Albert E. Shelby###imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all.###imported-begin##Karen Gentile-Miles###imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ Sorry to here about your lost, best wishes to you family.##imported-begin##Lee Von Nutall##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ We are sorry to hear about Elenor's passing. ĩ½We were forunate to know Elenor. ĩ½She was a wonderful person and loved her family very much. ĩ½Gerald and Bob worked together for many years.##imported-begin##Bob and Lois Kelly##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



“ NULL##imported-begin##Larry and Cindy Boudreau##imported-end##

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM



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

March 16, 2009 at 08:26 AM