



Paula Catherine Nelson

October 3, 1960 - September 10, 2023

Paula Catherine (Birchard) Nelson, age 62, of Pickford, Michigan, went to be with the Lord on September 10, 2023. She was born October 3, 1960, in Pontiac, Michigan, to parents Jesse and Lillian (Jarnot) Birchard.

Paula spent her youth growing up in Walled Lake, Michigan, with her ten brothers and sisters. She finished her final year of high school in Treasure Island, Florida where her parents had a beach house summer cabin. After graduation, she lived in Colorado before coming back to her hometown in Michigan where she met the love of her life, Karl Nelson. Karl and Paula were working at the same restaurant in Oakland County when they met for the first time. She was a waitress, and he was a cook with experience in French cuisine. They married in 1985 and moved to Kentucky where they began their family. After returning to the Howell area, Paula took on homeschooling her three children and caring for her family full-time. The Nelson family moved to the Upper Peninsula in 1995 and Paula began a ten-year missionary service with Cedar Campus in Cedarville, Michigan. In 2001, Paula and Karl opened Karl's Cuisine in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The restaurant operated for the next twenty years, becoming a community staple for locals and tourists alike.

Paula was a helper. She spent her life providing for the community she lived in and being the best wife, mother, Bop (grandma), sister, aunt, and friend someone could ask for. She always went above and beyond for others, and

you knew you always had a place at her table (where she would serve amazing food)! She enjoyed spending her downtime gardening, playing Yahtzee, and eating good food, but most of all, she loved her family. Paula will be greatly missed by all who had the blessing of knowing her.

Paula is survived by her loving husband, Karl Nelson; children, Elliot (Beth) Nelson, Lily (Jared) Gaul and Charles (Torie) Nelson; grandchildren, Arloa, Oscar, Esta, Jace, Audrey, and Mya; siblings, Dennis Birchard (Lizabeth), Denise Cox (Gary), Donald Birchard (Beate), Patrice Musto (Anthony), Diane Ennamorato (Mark), Dean Birchard (Lovie), Delene Taylor (John) Darcene Monetti (Giuliano); and many nieces and nephews; as well as her beloved dogs, Dixie and Greta.

Paula was preceded in death by her parents, Jesse and Lillian Birchard; sister, Pamela Noviski; and brother, Daniel Birchard.

A Memorial Service will be held on September 23, 2023, at the Pickford Methodist Church at 2:00 PM with Pastor Tim Bashore officiating. There will be a Celebration of Life at the Wildwood Farm in Pickford at 3:00 PM, following the church service.

Galer Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left to the family at www.galerfuneralhomes.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

United Methodist Church
115 E Church St
Pickford, MI

Celebration of Life

SEP **23**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Wildwood Farm
5471 E. 26 Mile Rd.
Pickford, MI 49774

Tribute Wall



“ *Paula Catherine Nelson*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Paula Catherine Nelson*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Pamela J. purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Paula Catherine Nelson.*



Pamela J. - September 22, 2023 at 04:42 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Paula Catherine Nelson.*



September 22, 2023 at 03:47 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paula Catherine Nelson.*



September 20, 2023 at 08:31 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paula Catherine Nelson.*



September 20, 2023 at 05:47 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Paula Catherine Nelson.*



September 14, 2023 at 10:47 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paula Catherine Nelson.*

September 14, 2023 at 10:47 AM

DQ

“ Paula's family and friends should know that as I was praying with her brother Dean, yesterday, for the repose of Paula's gentle soul, three tracks of tears were dripping from his jawline. He declared how he was raised in a loving family and had every opportunity to succeed in life. Given, his prayerful concerns, the depth of his faith that Paula and he will hold each other again in the resurrection, and the support of loved ones, who can argue that Dean is not a success in this world? Certainly, not me. Please accept my condolences.

*Deacon Quinn
Dir. of Prison Ministry
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Palm Beach*

Dcn. Quinn - September 14, 2023 at 10:20 AM

NI

“ Sad for your loss, Paula was a very kind helpful person who let her faith shine brightly. Sincerely Roger & Nina Leach.

Nina - September 13, 2023 at 11:30 PM

HB

“ Heidi Bartlett lit a candle in memory of Paula Catherine Nelson



Heidi Bartlett - September 13, 2023 at 01:59 PM

DR

“ Dawn & Jim Rigley lit a candle in memory of Paula Catherine Nelson



Dawn & Jim Rigley - September 12, 2023 at 03:20 PM

FC

“ Friends At Luna Pier Harbour Club lit a candle in memory of Paula Catherine Nelson



Friends at Luna Pier Harbour Club - September 12, 2023 at 01:41 PM

SS

“ Sharon And Lyle Sherlund lit a candle in memory of Paula Catherine Nelson



Sharon and Lyle Sherlund - September 11, 2023 at 10:39 PM