



Theresa Marie McDowell

April 25, 1929 - August 20, 2020

Theresa Marie (Vigneaux) McDowell, age 91, went to be with the Lord on August 20, 2020, at the Evergreen Living Center in St. Ignace, Michigan. She was born in Rudyard, Michigan on April 25, 1929, to Edmond Joseph and Alice Marie (Tremblay) Vigneaux.

Theresa grew up in Rudyard and she had fond memories of her childhood which revolved around family, friends, and church. She graduated from Rudyard High School in 1947 and worked as a telephone operator for Michigan Bell in St. Ignace for a few years before marrying Glen McDowell in 1951. They had a large family of 10 children. Even with all the work of raising a family of this size, she helped Glen as much as she could with his various projects.

Theresa was a lifelong member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rudyard and served as the president, vice- president, treasurer, and secretary of the women's group – serving in some positions multiple times. In 1994, she was honored as the St. Joseph's woman of the year. She helped with the Religious Education for many years as a teacher and coordinator of the program. She also belonged to an interfaith Bible Study.

Theresa worked on the Rudyard Centennial Committee in 1983. She also helped Glen with his duties as a UP Fair Board member for many years which

involved a great deal of travel. Theresa was part of the Friendship Club assisting mentally disabled children as well as a member of the Rudyard Friends of the Library.

Every summer for most of her life, Theresa cooked huge meals for the hay crew that worked on the farm. She was famous for those big turkey dinners among many other favorite meals.

Theresa's primary joy in life was her family. She was a devoted wife, and a loving, caring, and understanding mother. She was interested in everything in her children's lives and loved to hear about what was going on. She lived her life to serve others, mainly her family, and we are all grateful for everything she did for us and our families.

Theresa loved to read, sew, and to paint in her spare time. She has sewn many quilts and painted many pictures for her family through the years.

Theresa is survived by her ten children: Gary (Carrie) McDowell, Mary Kay (Ernie) Aho, JoAnn (Walt) Betcher, Karen (Dick) Boncek, Bob (Bernadette) McDowell, Annette (Bob) Malaski, Ron McDowell, Jim McDowell, Susan (Mike) Wilds, and Kevin (Kristen) McDowell. Theresa is also survived by 24 grandchildren: Alivia (Mark) Howland, Emily (Eric) Plachta, Rochelle (Ray) Kaunisto, Matt (Stacey) Aho, Jenna (Jan-Michael) Stump, Jenny (Andrew) Chubb, Dan (Heather) Betcher, Joe (Degi) Betcher, Kevin (Alicia) Boncek, Brittany (Connor) Green, Greg Boncek, Jay (Paige) Chick, Stacia Chick, Mark Chick, Brandon (Becky) Malaski, Brent (Kaitlyn) Malaski, Alex Malaski, Rebecca (Jared) Meehan, Monica Malaski, Robert Malaski, Derek Wilds, Marquita (Paul) Mullen, Henry McDowell, and Joe McDowell. Theresa was blessed with 20 great grandchildren as well. She is also survived by sisters, Blanche Schlehuder and Marie Backlund and sisters in law, Doris McDowell, Sue

McDowell, Eudene McDowell, and Betty Vigneaux.

Theresa was preceded in death by her husband, Glen; sister, Loretta Litzner; and brothers, Paul and Louis Vigneaux.

There will be a private family Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rudyard.

Father Timothy Hruska will be presiding. Burial will be at the Oaklawn Chapel Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 11509 W H-40, Rudyard, MI 49780.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Chapel Gardens

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Tribute Wall



“ *Theresa Marie McDowell*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Theresa Marie McDowell*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Theresa Marie McDowell*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Theresa was a lovely lady, and family gatherings with her there were very special. Our condolences, thoughts and prayers are sent to the whole family.*

Jim and Sandy Malaski - August 24, 2020 at 03:47 PM



“ *MDARD's Leadership Team purchased the Living Life Memorial Framed Art for the family of Theresa Marie McDowell.*



MDARD's Leadership Team - August 24, 2020 at 02:07 PM

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“ *Our hearts go out to all of you. We enjoyed visiting with your mom over the years. She did a great job of raising all of you, she was very proud of each and everyone of you. We also feel fortunate to call all of you friends. Your mom is in God's hands and was welcomed by all who have gone before her. Sending hugs to all.*

Cindy & Kelly Kemp - August 22, 2020 at 07:48 PM