



## Bernadette "Bernie" Pohl

March 22, 2014

BERNADETTE ANN ("Bernie") POHL entered eternal life on March 22, 2014.

Bernie was born November 17, 1951 in Minneapolis, MN to William J. and Vera (Godfrey) Diehl, the fifth of eleven children. When she was two years old the family moved to what became the family home for the next 35 years in south Minneapolis. She graduated from Incarnation grade school and Regina High School before attending the University of Minnesota in Duluth. There she majored in elementary education with a minor in Physical Education.

Bernie's first work after graduation from the U of M was as a physical education teacher in several Catholic elementary schools in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. She believed in physical education as a way of helping children develop physically, socially, and emotionally, and stressed striving for one's personal best rather than competitive achievement. Later, Bernie taught English as a Second Language(ESL) for Adults in the Minneapolis public school system.

In 1983 Bernie met Gerald (Gerry)Pohl in a young adult group. They quickly became a very good friends but didn't start dating until Bernie returned in 1984 from a 6 month stay in Europe with her brother's family. They were married on February 28, 1987, at Incarnation Church in Minneapolis, Bernie's home parish, and settled into Gerry's home in St. Anthony. Son Michael was

born in 1989, and Joseph was born in 1992. Another son, Christopher, died in infancy in 1991.

After the children were born, she continued to teach ESL on a part time basis so that she could spend more time with her children. When both her sons were in school she decided to pursue her long-time dream of getting a Master's Degree in Theology. She enrolled in the Institute of Pastoral Theology offered by the University of Dallas with classes held at the local parish school. She received her Masters degree in May 2001, missing out being the Valedictorian by the smallest of margins. She was hired as Director of Religious Education at Holy Trinity Parish in South St. Paul, a position she held for several years until she retired.

Bernie loved the outdoors and enjoyed hiking and cross country skiing until she was no longer capable of doing those things. But as much as she could she would still go walking around the lakes or parks in the area. For her, nature was all part of God's glorious creation.

As a loving mother and wife, she always put the needs of others before her own. She encouraged her sons to do their best but was there to support them when things didn't work out. She truly enjoyed watching her sons participate in sporting or singing events and having family time at home. Her kind and generous heart will always be remembered.

In 2009 Bernie was diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer. She was told that fewer than 15% of people with this diagnosis survived beyond five years, but she decided she would do everything possible to fall into that 15%. Five years of increasingly aggressive treatment followed, but the cancer would not be controlled. On March 20 she was admitted to St. Therese Hospice at St. Odilia Parish in Shoreview, where she was warmly welcomed by the staff. On Saturday, March 22, after some visiting friends had prayed and said their goodbyes Bernie peacefully died holding her husband's hand.

Bernadette was pre-deceased by her son Christopher, her parents William and Vera Diehl and two sisters, Patricia Parrish and Martha Diehl. She is survived by her loving husband of 27 years, Gerry, her sons Michael and Joseph, 3 sisters: Ann Diehl, Marianne Jacobs ,Sheila Mathias, and 5 brothers: William, Mark, Jeffrey, James and John, and many nieces, nephews, other family members and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. John the Baptist Church, 835 2nd Avenue NW, New Brighton, MN 55112 on Saturday, March 29, at 11:00, with visitation at the church one hour prior to the service. Interment will be at St. Mary's Cemetery in Minneapolis, where her son Christopher is buried.

Although Bernie very much liked flowers, she would have preferred memorials to EWTN, Relevant Radio, Cradle of Hope or Pro-Life Across America.

# Tribute Wall

RM

“ Gerry, Mike and Joe, We are so very sorry for your loss. Bernie was a wonderful person and will be missed by all who knew her. You are in our thoughts and prayers and may God be with you in your time of sorrow.

Ron & Kathy Miller - March 28, 2014 at 12:19 PM

RM

“ Ron and Kathy Miller purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Bernadette "Bernie" Pohl.



Ron and Kathy Miller - March 28, 2014 at 12:12 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bernadette "Bernie" Pohl.



March 28, 2014 at 02:31 AM



“ Oh Gerry, Michael and Joe - My heart goes out to you in letting go of dear Bernie. I was thinking about the word "kindness" the other day and Bernie's face came to mind and her smile just enveloped me in my mind's eye and ---- what a gift!

*Bernie and I lived together just after college days. We laughed and sang the blues together. We sat on the front step of our little rented house and clocked in the seasons and talked about what life might bring.*

*Bernie also lived with Jim and me for a short time when we were in our early 30s. We cross country skied together (due much to her encouragement!), we all shoveled the 18-inch snowfall together (twice! during that winter), we hooted with laughter and danced around the living room.*

*Then life got busy and we stayed in touch with Christmas letters - and hers were legendary. What a poet she was/is! And when we reconnected several years ago and began having lunch every so often, it was as though time hadn't gone by. Our bodies age and grow old and our life circumstances change, but our spirits don't know time. So it was like no time had passed. I knew her soul still - and she knew mine.*

*I love Bernie. Always have. Always will. Her face shines in my heart and I grieve the loss of her presence in this life. How hard it is to lose her presence. Jim and I cover you with our love and we ask God to hold you so very close these days.*

*With full hearts,  
Joy and Jim Hayenga*

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*"Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because dawn has come."*

*We bless you in the new dawn light, dear Bernie!*

**Joy Hayenga** - March 27, 2014 at 11:09 AM

MS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



**Marianne Jacobs, sister** - March 26, 2014 at 03:24 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bernadette "Bernie" Pohl.*



March 26, 2014 at 03:09 PM

JS

“ *Gerry, Mike & Joe. I am so sad to hear about your loss! However, Bernie was such an awesome inspiration. I remember her taking us girls for a weekend when we were younger and spoiling us with swimming, dinner and sleeping over at her apartment. I remember her playing tennis with my dad and running around Lake Harriet. She always encouraged us to do what we loved. Our kids still remember of Mike & Joe playing basketball with them in the driveway when you came to visit. Bernie had a solid faith, she took her illness and faced it head on and did everything God asked of her. For that she is now rewarded in heaven. Know that we are praying for you. Love you all. Jen & Peter santerre*

**Jen santerre** - March 26, 2014 at 02:35 PM

CC

“ Dear Ann Diehl, sister of Bernadette,  
My prayers are with your family.  
God bless each of you with comfort, peace, and good memories.  
Sincere sympathy,  
Sister Connie Gleason, CSJ

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**Connie Gleason, CSJ** - March 26, 2014 at 01:57 AM

RK

“ Dear Gerry, Michael and Joe.  
  
Bernie was a true and shining example of God's love in the world.  
We will miss her terribly.  
  
Chuck and Rose Karas

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**Rose Karas** - March 26, 2014 at 12:15 AM

DT

“ Oh Gerry, Michael, Joseph,  
Remembrances of Bernie are of the constant ongoing strength that  
she continued to portray all of the years she dealt with her illnesses.  
I cannot say how heart broken I was to hear of her passing,  
however, her memories will help heal the grieving process for you  
all. My thoughts and prayers go out to you all.

*Denise & Dave Tschida*

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**Denise Tschida** - March 25, 2014 at 12:19 PM

CR

“ *Jerry, Michael and Joseph:  
Chris and I heard the news and wanted to let you know our hearts  
are with you all. Her gentleness, tender friendship, and strong faith  
inspired us and will always be remembered.  
God bless you all. You remain in our prayers,  
Chris & Clare Ruff and children*

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**Clare Ruff** - March 25, 2014 at 09:16 AM



“ *Rebecca Parrish lit a candle in memory of  
Bernadette "Bernie" Pohl*



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**Rebecca Parrish** - March 24, 2014 at 09:19 PM



*Your flame may have been extinguished here on Earth, but your  
eternal flame shall forever be lit both in heaven and in our hearts and  
memories.*

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**Rebecca Parrish** - March 24, 2014 at 09:22 PM

MS

*Bern was a mighty "cool" little sister. We spent long hours playing paperdolls as children (she was always the prettiest, and most feminine doll.). Then, we learned to play guitars, and we'd harmonize for hours with one another, so dramatically. We would talk in bed at night...she always talked longer. I fell asleep. We'd laugh about the silliest things, and talk about the most serious of world problems. We shared faith, and boy firend stories, and well, everything. Though we could go months without talking, it was always wonderful when we did. You beat me to Heaven, Bern. Is that like getting shotgun in the car? I'll miss this younger sister, but I know she'll always be right there if I need her. She always has been for anyone who ever needed her. We were all blessed to have been part of her life, and to have been loved by her. God bless us one and all, and especially bless Bern who strove with her last ounce of courage to reach the unreachable star! Love,  
Marianne*

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**Marianne Jacobs, sister** - March 26, 2014 at 03:13 PM