

Mary Eloise was born May 11, 1925 in Bismarck, ND, the daughter of L.E. Jr. (Jake) and Ethel (McKee) Heaton. She graduated from St. Mary's High School in Bismarck and later received her bachelor's degree at St. Benedict's College in St. Joseph, MN. After graduation, Mary moved to Glen Ullin to teach at the local school. On December 30, 1947, Mary married William Gietzen. Their marriage was blessed with 15 children. Mary was a devoted wife, mother, and homemaker whose life was a testament of love, and unwavering dedication to her family. She embraced the joys and challenges of raising a large family with patience, perseverance, and a heart full of grace. Her strength was rooted in her faith, guiding her through every season of life. Mary enjoyed gardening, cooking, canning, and homemaking. Mary was an avid reader, and proud of her world travels. She was involved in Homefront Women, the Glen Ullin and State School Board, and Youth Ministry. Together with her husband, William, she spent much time advocating Right to Life. With many of her loved ones serving in the military, Mary took immense pride in their dedication to protecting and honoring this nation. After losing her son Gene in 1969 in the Vietnam War, she became a Gold Star Mother. Mary's husband was also a World War II Veteran who served overseas in Japan. Seven of her own son's, along with many of her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren have or are currently serving our country. Mary was a member of St. Clement's Catholic Church and St. Clement's Christian Mothers. She will be dearly missed and forever loved. Mary is survived by her sons, Russell, Glenn (Linda), Gregory (Lan), Aaron, Hilary (Sara), Peter (Cindy), Frederick; daughters, Margaret Gietzen, Anna (Jay) Brown, Virginia (John) Saiki, Catherine (Charlie) Holle; daughter-in-law, Rita Gietzen; 63 grandchildren and numerous great and great-great grandchildren; sisters, Geneva Kurtz, Virginia Benz. She was preceded in death by her husband, William (2007); parents, L.E. and Ethel Heaton; children, Gene, James, Mary Kay, and Mark; daughter-in-law, Anh Gietzen.



Mary Gietzen

May 11, 1925 - March 8, 2025



Go placidly amid the noise and haste,
and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible without surrender
be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly;
and listen to others,
even the dull and the ignorant;
they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons,
they are vexations to the spirit.
If you compare yourself with others,
you may become vain and bitter;
for always there will be greater
and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.
Keep interested in your own career, however humble;
it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs;
for the world is full of trickery.

But let this not blind you to what virtue there is;
many persons strive for high ideals;
and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself.

Especially, do not feign affection.

Neither be cynical about love;
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment
it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years,
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.

But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.

Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline,
be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe,
no less than the trees and the stars;
you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

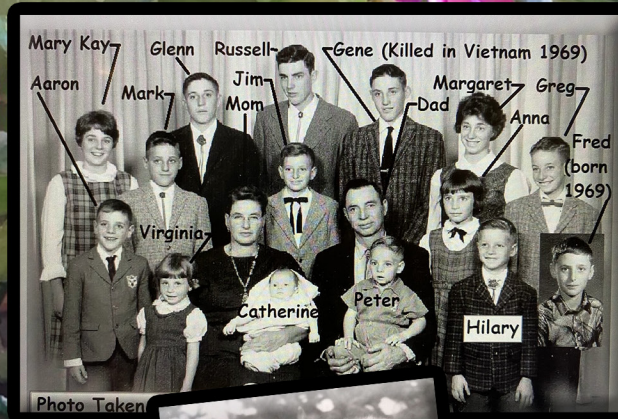
Therefore be at peace with God,
whatever you conceive Him to be,
and whatever your labors and aspirations,
in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.

Be cheerful.

Strive to be happy.

— Max Ehrmann, 1927



Mary Gietzen

FUNERAL MASS:
Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:30 am
St. Clement Oratory
Haymarsh, North Dakota

ROSARY & VIGIL:
Monday, March 17, 2025 6:00 pm
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Glen Ullin, North Dakota
Father Gary Benz

CELEBRATING:
Father Anthony Saiki

MUSIC:
The Bluestems
Lexi Gietzen & Andrew Jacobson

SERVERS:
Simon Jacobson & Caleb Rodewalk

READER:
Fred Gietzen

GIFT BEARERS:
Peter & Cindy Gietzen

PALLBEARERS:
All of Mary's Grandsons

INTERMENT:
St. Clement's Cemetery
Haymarsh, North Dakota

ARRANGEMENTS BY:
Stevenson Funeral Home
Glen Ullin, North Dakota

Lunch will be served in the
Sacred Heart Parish Hall following the
graveside service. Everyone is welcome.