



Gone From My Sight

*I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side,
spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts
for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength.
I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck
of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.*

Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone."

Gone where?

*Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast,
hull and spar as she was when she left my side.
And, she is just as able to bear her load of living
freight to her destined port.
Her diminished size is in me -- not in her.*

*And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is gone,"
there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices
ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"*

And that is dying...

Henry Van Dyke

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Darlene Aurelia Gefre

WHO WAS BORN

March 18, 1932

Brown County, South Dakota

AND CALLED TO HER ETERNAL HOME

April 10, 2023

Milbank, South Dakota

MEMORIAL MASS

Saturday, April 15, 2023 - 10:30 a.m.

St. Lawrence Catholic Church

Milbank, South Dakota

CELEBRANT

Fr. Gary DeRouchev

MUSICIANS

Nancy Johnson, Organist

Kim Folk, Vocalist

Liz Schulte, Violinist

St. Lawrence Funeral Choir

URN BEARERS

All of Darlene's Grandchildren

HONORARY BEARERS

All of Darlene's Grandchildren

Staff at St. William's Care Center

Daughters of St. Mary of Providence

INURNMENT

At A Later Date

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

Aberdeen, South Dakota

APPRECIATION

Darlene's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.

Your many expressions of kindness and love are deeply appreciated. Following the Mass, please join the family for food and fellowship in the church dining hall.

Mundwiler Funeral Home - Milbank, South Dakota

Darlene Aurelia (Schwab) Gefre was born on March 18, 1932, on the family farm 18 miles southwest of Aberdeen, SD, to Carl and Aurelia (Snyder) Schwab. She grew up on the family farm until she was in eighth grade when she moved into town. Darlene attended school and graduated with the Class of 1950 from Aberdeen Central. She lived her entire life in the Aberdeen area until 2016 when she moved to Milbank.

On June 19, 1950, Darlene was united in marriage with Joseph S. Gefre and together, they were blessed with five children: Jolene, Dallas, Carla, Darwin, and Jody.

Darlene was a wonderful homemaker raising her children and always volunteering wherever she was needed. She did hold various odd jobs including daycare and babysitting for many children and working at the Elk's Club.

With her faith being of the utmost importance to her, Darlene was a member of the Rosary Crusade and Altar Societies at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Aberdeen. She was a prayer warrior and prayed hard for the less fortunate and the ones she loved. She was full of wisdom and many people sought her advice.

Darlene was an avid seamstress and an amazing baker. She sewed her daughters, Jolene and Carla's wedding dresses and the bridesmaid dresses. Darlene was famous for her apple pies, caramel rolls, and Kuchen. She loved playing Bingo and dominoes and enjoyed arts and crafts at St. William's. The staff and residents of St. William's were like her second family. Most of all, Darlene cherished her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and time she spent with them.

Left to cherish Darlene's memory are her daughters: Jolene (John) Nerdahl of Surprise, AZ; Carla (Kevin) Dandurand of Watertown, SD; and Jody (Rick) Dilts of Milbank, SD; seven grandchildren: Jarrod (Tonia) Waetjen, Riley (Ashley) Dandurand, Dustin (April) Dandurand, Justin (Cassie) Amsler, Eric (Danielle) Dandurand, Austin (Jamela) Dilts, and Erin (Justin) Eccles; 10 great-grandchildren and one on the way in May 2023; along with many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Joseph in 2014; sons: Dallas Gefre and Darwin Gefre; sister, Rozella Grote; and brothers: J. Leonard Schwab, Leon Schwab, Florian Schwab, and Norman Schwab.

