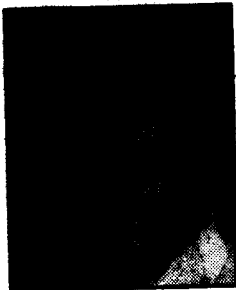


# Mary Lou Bornhorst

Mary Lou Bornhorst, 82, of Fort Loramie, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, on Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012, at Dorothy Love Retirement Community.



The youngest of 13 children, she was born on Nov. 25, 1929, in Fort Loramie, the daughter of John and Anna Borchers, and they preceded her in death.

She graduated from Fort Loramie High School in 1947, and on May 22, 1951, she was married to Homer J. Bornhorst, and he survives.

Since that time, Mary Lou and Homer have been major contributors to the civic and church life of Fort Loramie and are widely known for their untiring work for St. Michael Catholic Church, their steady support of friends and family in times of need and their dashing moves on dance floors from the Caribbean to Honolulu.

Mary Lou devoted her life to her husband, her children, her community and her parish, where she built a career in religious education that began in 1961 and continued until her retirement in 2007.

She regularly devoted countless hours preparing lesson plans for the religion courses she taught, ultimately becoming a co-director of religious education (1979-1995), a director of the youth ministry, an instructor at local Marriage Encounter functions, and a member of the Parish Council and Education Commission (1971-1995). Her leadership skills, teaching talent, and commitment to social justice led her to active involvement in the Cincinnati Archdiocese as a member of its Pastoral Council (1979-1985) and Social Action/World Peace Commission (1984-1990).

Mary Lou's strong faith also led her to actively participate in many outreach programs, including hosting foster children and foreign exchange students, organizing hunger walks, volunteering at FISH, and organizing Casseroles for a Cause at the Holy Angels Soup Kitchen.

Mary Lou's greatest joy and passion were her best friend, Homer, and their four sons, two daughters and their families.

She is survived by her children, Theodore J. and Laurie (Hanner) Bornhorst of Houghton, Mich. Richard J. and Stephanie (Hertenstein) Bornhorst of Findlay, Mary Jo A. and Rhondale Haynes of Springboro, William J. and Ann (Dugan) Bornhorst of Roswell, Ga., Katherine A. and Kevin Thomason of Dallas, Texas, Donald J. Bornhorst of St. Louis. She is also survived by 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by 11 of her 12 siblings, Martha Hilgefert, Clarence Borchers, Anthony Borchers, Louis Borchers, Herbert Borchers, Emma Kaiser, Mildred Barhorst, Leona Steineman, Helen Barga, John Borchers, and Albert Borchers. She is survived by her beloved sister, Agnes Winner.

The family treasures many fond memories of Mary Lou, but most of all her caring nature and selfless support of others, whether friends, family or strangers. Through her unwavering Catholic faith, she challenged everyone she touched to always think of others first. The family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to The Community Foundation of Shelby County, Homer and Mary Lou Bornhorst Family Scholarship Fund benefiting Fort Loramie High School students (100 South Main Avenue, Sidney, Ohio 45365) or to the American Cancer Society.

Visitation will be held from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9 and from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 10 at Hogenkamp Funeral Home in Minster.

The funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday at St. Michael Catholic Church in Fort Loramie, with burial to follow at St. Michael Cemetery in Fort Loramie.

Condolences may be made at [www.hogenkampfh.com](http://www.hogenkampfh.com).