



## Norena Kinsey

June 17, 1935 - July 11, 2017

Norena (Beatrice) Marie Kinsey passed away on Tuesday, July 11, 2017.

She was born in Chicago on June 17, 1935, the daughter of the late Ben and Marie Kinsey and sister to the late Rose O'Rourke, Bernice Leckinger, and Phyllis Healy.

Norena was a longtime resident of Milwaukee, WI and spent many years as a nun in the order of School Sisters of St. Francis, where she dedicated her life to education and service and rose to the role of Mother Superior. During her career she held many directorships including Director of Community Services at the Alexian Village where she won awards for her unselfish work serving all faiths and ages and primarily for her staunch advocacy for the elderly. She was a pioneer in eldercare administration and a passionate teacher of issues surrounding aging, death and dying.

Norena exemplified great determination and perseverance throughout her life by overcoming many struggles, including a terrible fall where the doctors told her she would not walk again. Not only did she walk but by the end of her hospital stay she was giving motivational lectures to other patients and staff. Later Norena also came back from a devastating stroke that left her with no use of her right side, but she still lived independently until the age of 81.

Norena was a beloved aunt, sister, godmother, and lifelong friend to many.

In her own words, Norena's message to those left behind is "Thank you to everyone who touched my life. What a blessing you all are. It has been a great life. Thank you. Lots of love, Norena."

Visitation will be 10 – 11 a.m. on Monday, July 17, 2017 at Prince of Peace Church, 135 S. Milwaukee Ave. Lake Villa, IL 60046. Mass will begin at 11 a.m. Monday at church. Burial will take place privately after Mass at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, IL. Funeral arrangements under the care of Ringa Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to the School Sister of St. Francis: <http://www.sssf.org/SSSF/Support-Us/Ways-To-Give.htm>

# Cemetery Details

## All Saints Cemetery

700 N. River Rd  
Des Plaines, IL 60016

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church  
135 S. Milwaukee Ave  
Lake Villa, IL 60046  
(847) 356-7915

## Mass

JUL 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church  
135 S. Milwaukee Ave  
Lake Villa, IL 60046  
(847) 356-7915

# Tribute Wall



“ I don't know if anyone will ever read this, but I'm writing anyway. ;) Yesterday my mom sent me a story about a woman who received a terminal diagnosis and is now preparing for her death. It was the woman's attitude about her certain impending death that made me think of Norena Kinsey and I had to look her up. I'm sad to learn she died in 2017. I had Norena for a Death & Dying class I took thru MATC. I was a business student at a nearby university and needed 3 more credits to graduate. I chose this class as an elective and found myself beside classmates who worked in healthcare or the funeral business. Norena was the sweetest teacher I ever met. Over the years, I have told many people about her or the things she taught in this class. She was special and we had a unique connection, if only for a semester. I still have the ornament she gave me with the Holy Family on it, and it has always gotten a prominent place near the top of our Christmas tree. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

---

**JWiz** - April 30 at 12:11 PM



“ Norena Kinsey

---

October 04, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ Norena Kinsey

---

December 31, 2022 at 11:36 AM