

LaRue Simonson, 77

LaRue Marie (Kastner) Simonson, 77, New Ulm, Minn., died Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at Pillar Hospice, Oak Dale, Minn., one week after suffering a severe head injury.

Her funeral was at St. Thomas Oratory, Sanborn, Friday, March 13, with Father Dennis Labat and Father Andy Olsem officiating. A parish prayer service was Thursday at the Sturm Funeral Home, Springfield. Interment was in St. Raphael's Catholic Cemetery, Springfield, with Sturm Funeral Home, Springfield, Minn., in charge of arrangements.

E-mail condolences may be sent to the family at www.sturmfh.com.



LaRue Marie Simonson was born November 21, 1931, in Cottonwood County, Minn., the daughter of Joseph and Clara (Saffert) Kastner. LaRue received her education in rural school District #79 in Germantown Township. She was employed at the Sanborn City Cafe and also at Hornick's Hardware Store. She was united in marriage to Donald Simonson on September 28, 1949, at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Sanborn.

After their marriage, they moved to their farm near Sanborn, where LaRue belonged to a Home Extension club, taught CCD for many years, and was involved in her kids' activities, including several years as head cook in the Cottonwood County 4-H Foodstand. They moved to Fish Lake near Windom in May, 1979. She then volunteered at Sogge's Nursing Home, where she did mending for ten years, and cleaned house for several area families. She was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Windom and served as president of the Ladies Guild. She sewed baptismal gowns and especially enjoyed cutting and piecing squares for quilts for the missions. They moved into Windom in 2004 and to New Ulm in October, 2008, where they were members of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.

She is survived by her husband Donald of New Ulm; three daughters, Sharon (Erv) Weinkauff, New Ulm; Nancy (Keith) Anderson, Hugo, Minn., and Peggy (Steve) Simon, Groton, SD; three sons, David (Nancy) Simonson, White Bear Lake, Minn.; Jeffrey (Annmarie) Simonson, San Antonio, Texas, and Gary (Barb) Simonson, Jordan, Minn.; 17 grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren; two brothers, Ray (Evelyn) Kastner and Wayne (Diane) Kastner, both of Sanborn; and one sister Alice Radtke, Sanborn. She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Joe Kastner, and an infant son.

Besides quilt-making, LaRue enjoyed time with her family, crossword puzzles, playing cards, dancing, and baking - especially home-made buns and rolls for her grandchildren. She will be sadly missed.