

Bernadette Kirlin, 85

March 8, 1922 - Feb. 16, 2008

WEST DES MOINES — Bernadette Kirlin was born on March 8, 1922, on the family farm near Woodbine, IA, one of eight children born to William and Helen (Keane) Croghan. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, IA. She attended country school, St. Mary's Catholic School, and graduated from Modale High School in 1941. She attended one year of nurses training at Mercy School of Nursing in Council Bluffs, IA.

Bernadette became engaged to Edmond Kirlin and they were married in 1944. Five children were born to this union: Timothy, Joseph, Frank, Kevin, and Rosemary. After the death of her husband in 1951, she farmed near Modale, IA, for a couple of years until she moved her family back to Panama. She worked as the school cook while her children attended school in Panama.

In 1971, Bernadette married Paul Wise and moved to Avoca. Bernadette lived in Avoca until 1997. Bernadette was a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Katherine #266 of Earling, IA, and Sacred Heart Catholic parish in West Des Moines. She moved to West Des Moines in 1997 and it was there at her home that she died on Saturday, February 16, 2008, having attained the age of eighty-five years, eleven months, and eight days.

She led a life of devotion to her family, and faith in God. At the age of 29 she was left a widow with four children under the age of five and one child on the way. She raised her family alone and did not complain about life's unfairness. She was intelligent, honest, strong, loving, kind, wise, patient, funny, and faithful. She was a great mother, a good neighbor, and a great friend. We have been blessed by her presence in our lives.

Bernadette was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Edmond Kirlin, her second husband Paul Wise, her brothers James Croghan, Joseph Croghan, and Peter Croghan, her sisters Mary Helen Griffith and Elizabeth Kohles, and her sister-in-law Catherine Croghan. She is survived by her sons: Timothy Kirlin and his wife Sharon of Phoenix, AZ, Joseph Kirlin of West Des Moines, IA, Frank Kirlin and his wife Debra Perkins of Pembroke Pines, FL, Kevin Kirlin and his wife Elizabeth Nelson of West Des Moines, and her daughter Rosemary Kirlin also of West Des Moines; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; her brothers Jerome Croghan of Manning, IA, and Tom Croghan and his wife Jeanne of Omaha, NE; sisters-in-law Kathleen Croghan of Falls Church, VA, Margaret Croghan of Manning, and Adelaide Croghan of Panama, IA; and brothers-in-law David Griffith of Missouri Valley, IA, and Jim Kohles of Harlan, IA; other family members and many friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, February 23, 2008, with Rev. John Dorton acting as celebrant of the 10:30 AM service. Hon-

orary casket bearers were William Griffith, Gregory Croghan, Peter Croghan, Eugene Croghan, Donald Croghan, Gerald Kohles, Patrick Croghan, Barbara Bruck, Alice Kramer, and Elizabeth Moore. Serving as casket bearers were Timothy Kirlin, Francis Kirlin, Richard Kirlin, Michael Kirlin, Kevin Kirlin, and Joseph Kirlin. Interment was held at St. Bridget's Cemetery in Magnolia, IA.



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