

Marie Monahan, 101

July 25, 1913 - Dec. 7, 2014

EARLING — Marie Katherine Monahan was born on July 25, 1913 to August and Mary (Schneider) Kaufman on her parent's farm northeast of Westphalia. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. She grew up on the farm attending St. Boniface Catholic and Shelby County public schools. She helped her parents and neighbors on their farms until she was eighteen. She also worked as a waitress and in private homes in the Harlan area.

April 24, 1935, Marie was united in marriage to Leonard Gross at St. Boniface Catholic Church. They made their home on a farm north of Earling where Leonard was farming. The couple had two children:

Tim and Tec. After Leonard's death in 1954, she and the children continued to live on the farm. She worked as a seamstress for many years. Marie served as president of the Altar Society and as an officer with The Catholic Daughters of America Court 266 for three years. In the 1970's, she held the office of Public Relations with the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women for two years and was a leader and coordinator in the CYO Program for five years. In 1977, she was given the "Woman of the Year" award by the Earling Commercial Club. She remained a member of St. Joseph's Altar Society, Catholic Daughters of America, and the Third Order of St. Francis.

February 24, 1979, Marie was united in marriage to Cyril Monahan of Portsmouth, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, and became a step-mother to his sons Neil and Ken. The couple made their home on the farm north of Earling until Cyril's death in 1994. Marie died at Little Flower Haven Nursing Home in Earling on Sunday, December 7, 2014, having attained the age of one hundred one years, four months, and twelve days.

Marie was preceded in death by her parents, husbands Leonard and Cyril, grandson Stephen Gross, sisters Frances Foxhoven and Geraldine Diken; five brothers: Tony, Al, Gerry, August, Jr., and Johnny Kaufman, step-son Neil Monahan; Godchild John Kaufman, and step-granddaughter Kathy Monahan. She is survived by her son Tim Gross and his wife Pat of Earling; daughter Tec and her husband Terry Bieker of Des Moines; eight grandchildren; great-grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren; step-son Ken Monahan and his wife Phyllis of Harlan; seven step-grandchildren; step-great-grandchildren; sisters: Aquinata Gross of Westphalia, Iowa, Lavina Gross of Earling, and Alice and her husband Herb Wegner of Panama; other family members and friends.

The 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Rev. Ken Gross and con-celebrated by Rev. Mark Urey on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Musicians were Mary Wil-werding and Chuck Smith with vocalists Andrew Gross and Marlene Smith. Serving as casket bearers were Kevin Gross, Jeff Gross, Denny Gross, Jeff Monahan, Mike Monahan, Troy Bieker, and Tim Bieker. Interment was held at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Earling.



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