

Philomena Wilwerding, 84

Oct. 1, 1918 - Feb. 11, 2003

DEFIANCE – Philomena Bernadine Wilwerding was born to William and Catherine Overmohle Tunink Oct. 19, 1918, and was one of 10 children in the family. She was baptized and confirmed in the St. Boniface Church in Elgin, NE. Phil attended school at St. Boniface Grade School. She quit school after the 8th grade to go to work.

June 15, 1940, she married Aloysius Wilwerding at the Sacred Heart Church in Melrose Park, IL, and continued to live there and in Maywood for 11 years. To this union four children were born, Joan, Bob, Alan and Mary Lou. In 1951, Al and Phil moved to Defiance from Maywood, IL. They operated the cafe called "Corner Inn" from Sept. 15, 1951 to Feb. 1, 1962, and turned it into a thriving restaurant. After selling the cafe in 1962, they moved into the old Reding house just north of the ball field where they continued to live until Al died in June 2000. She then moved into the New Cassel Assisted Living Facility in Omaha. She was a lifelong member of the Catholic Daughters of Americas Court of St. Katherine No. 266 of Earling. She was an active participant in St. Peter's Church and the many fund-raisers, always contributing food (pecan rolls) or homemade items. Phil died Feb. 11, 2003, at Alegent Immanuel Fontenelle Home in Omaha, NE, at age 84 years, three months and 23 days.



In addition to her parents and her husband, Al, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Leo Tunink and Tony Tunink, and two sisters, Helen Tunink and Betty Wolff. She is survived by her children, Joan (Dick) Munchrath of Omaha, NE; Bob Wilwerding (Luella) and Alan Wilwerding (Kathy), all of Defiance; and Mary Lou (Frederick) Fortey of Monument, CO; eight grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; brothers, Rev. Wilfrid Tunink of Pecos, NM and Jerry Tunink (Lita) of Elgin, NE; sisters, Thresia Tunink of Storm Lake; Loretta (Joe) Zegers of Petersburg, NE; and Mary Ann Kloewer of Fremont, NE; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Feb. 15, 2003, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance, with Rev. Michael Berner celebrant. Corey Fortey and John Wells were honorary casket bearers and Chris Fortey, David Wilwerding, Joe Ricchini, Don Munchrath, Andy Yost and Justin Wilwerding were casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.