

Mary Josephine Larson was born on March 22, 1934, in Aitkin, Minnesota, the daughter of Daniel and Katie (Miller) Boggs. She lived on a farm with her parents and younger brother and sister. She attended Aitkin Public School for the first two grades, then Maryhill Academy for grades three through eight, and graduated from Aitkin High School in 1952.

Since her parents and grandparents were in the wholesale berry business, Mary Jo learned at an early age to pick strawberries and raspberries. She was very active in 4-H, being a 4-H Leader locally and chaperoning the 4-Hers at the Minnesota State Fair.

On August 8, 1959, she was married to Harold V. Larson at the St. James Catholic Church in Aitkin. Since Harold had a teaching contract in Willmar, the couple moved to Willmar where Mary Jo baby sat a child daily while the mother taught school. In June of 1960, Mary Jo and Harold purchased a home in Willmar. Mary Jo began working for the City of Willmar, first with the police department and then in the accounting office. She retired in 1993, after working for over 30 years.

She was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, serving as a Eucharistic Minister and Sacristan. For her participation in church activities, Mary Jo received The Bishop's Award. She was also active with the Daughter's of Isabella and held local, state and international offices.

In 1996, Mary Jo and some other ladies started the D of I quilting group. All sizes of quilts were given to needy people in the area, to Rice Hospital, Shelter House, Hospice, Hope Pregnancy and many other organizations which needed quilts.

Mary Jo had several hobbies. For thirty-five years she was active in the Farmers Market, selling preserves and bread. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, and handy crafts. She and Harold traveled sixteen times to Europe, three times to Africa, and once to Asia. They also visited every state in the union, primarily to visit family and friends in the process of searching family history. Mary Jo and Harold were also active volunteers at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society.

She is survived by her loving husband of over 64 years, Harold; and one sister, Margaret Ann, besides other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Alfred.

*Following the interment, all relatives and friends are invited to
the Kandiyohi County Historical Society (610 Hwy. 71 N.)
for continued fellowship and refreshments.*

Celebrating the Life of



Mary Jo Larson

1934 - 2024

Homecoming

*I believe there is Someone waiting for me,
Waiting to say: "Welcome Home!"*

*Someone I have never seen,
but whom I will recognize in the depths
of my heart because He has lived there
since the beginning of time.*

*Someone who has never doubted my return,
never failed to still my doubts about my return.*

*I believe there is Someone who knows me
so intimately, loves me so totally,
that joy will spark spontaneously
when we reunite in the land of immortal Birth.*

*Tears will be wiped away; Sadness and fear
will disappear as mist when it meets the morning sun.
This is whom I seek, who seeks me.*

*He has never left me alone.
For He is Self of my self, Soul of my soul,
Life of my very life.*

—Sr. Joan Metzner

Peterson Brothers Funeral Home
"Celebrating A Life Remembered"
www.petersonbrothers.com

In Loving Memory Of

Mary Jo Larson

March 22, 1934
Aitkin, Minnesota

February 21, 2024
Willmar, Minnesota

Mass of Christian Burial

Thursday, February 29, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.

Church of St. Mary
Willmar, Minnesota

Celebrant

Fr. Steve Verhelst

Music

Pianist: Mary Pieh
St. Mary's Resurrection Choir

Gathering Song: "Amazing Grace" - The Scottish Bagpipes (CD)

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23 — "Shepherd Me O God"

Preparation of the Gifts: "Faith of Our Fathers"

Communion: "How Great Thou Art"

Song of Farewell: "The Hand of God Shall Hold You"

Going Forth: "My Country Tis of Thee"

Urnbearers

Bill & Marvis Hallberg
Don Burke Ron Keith

Interment

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery—Columbarium
Willmar, Minnesota