

Agnes Therese Fitzgibbons

With heavy hearts, the family of Agnes Therese McManaman Fitzgibbons sadly announces her passing on June 26, 2021. Born at home on June 5, 1931 on the family farm 5½ miles southeast of Spalding, Nebraska, to parents Lizzie Haggerty and Michael Bernard McManaman, she lived a full life of 90 years devoted to her family, her faith and her community. Her mother, Lizzie, passed away 18 months after her birth, her father 16 years later, and all of her siblings, Kay, James (“Bud”), John, Elizabeth, Michael (“Mick”) and Leonard, predeceased her. She developed a love of learning, reading by kerosene lamp on the farm, because they had no electricity. She attended a one room school house in District 38 until 5th grade when she entered Spalding Academy where she graduated from high school. She moved to Omaha, Nebraska and went on to attend nursing school at St. Joseph’s (which later became part of Creighton University). The power of an education learned in the glow of that kerosene lamp would ultimately illuminate the path for her seven children to all receive graduate and post graduate degrees.



During nursing school, on a blind date, she met David A. Fitzgibbons Jr. from Armstrong, Iowa. They married four years later. She gave birth to her first child, Sheila, in Ft. Benning, Georgia, just before David left for a tour of Korea hosted by the U.S. Army. After completing his military service on August 9, 1957, David and Agnes moved to Estherville, Iowa, where she gave birth to six more children: Bridget Harrington (Dan), Molly, David (Yvonne), Kelly Herbst (Chris), Denis (Lisa), Kevin (Monica). All of her children survive her.

Because of her husband’s health problems, the Fitzgibbons family moved to Casa Grande in 1974, where David practiced law until his death in 1995. Ever the caring nurse, Agnes always devoted hours and careful/particular attention to his health and medical care and unquestionably improved and extended his life. Following his death, she traveled. Her trips included: Europe, England, Medjugorje, the Holy Land, Mexico, an Alaskan cruise and her 75th birthday trip where she took all of her children and grandchildren to Ireland to learn and experience fully the gift of their Irish heritage.

In Casa Grande, she served as a member of Catholic Daughters of America, taught CYO and CCD at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church and delivered communion to the sick and shut-ins. She also enjoyed Garden Club, Bridge Club and her many friends. She actively supported St. Anthony’s School in a variety of ways. As with the rest of her life, however, Agnes felt most at home serving others, whether it be her family, friends or strangers. She helped many people who never knew her nor she them, never expecting anything in return. She felt most proud of her assistance in establishing the Casa Grande chapter of St. Vincent de Paul in the late 1980s and serving on the organizational committee to establish Eucharistic Adoration. Until health issues prevented it, she attended Mass daily and often brought others along with her, including elderly ladies who couldn’t drive, and her children. Her faith is her lasting gift to her children, 19 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren who survive her. She is preceded in death by a grandson, Maximillian Herbst.

Rosary will be recited at 4:00 p.m. Friday, July 2, 2021, at St. Anthony’s. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m., Saturday at St. Anthony’s. J. Warren Funeral Home has been entrusted with her final arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to St. Anthony’s School or St. Vincent de Paul of Casa Grande; she would also appreciate you opening your arms and helping another human being who you encounter who suffers. That is the true legacy of Agnes Therese McManaman Fitzgibbons.