Ruth Mary Van Well
(June 28, 1926 - March 19, 2013)

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Ruth Van Well, 86, Hoven, SD, died Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at the Bowdle Hospital. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 AM Saturday, March 23, 2013 at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, Hoven, with Father Brian Simon, Celebrant, and Father Kevin Doyle, Con-celebrant. Burial follows at the Church Cemetery. Organist will be Alice Simon, soloist Lexie Vogel will sing “How Beautiful”, and St. Anthony’s Church Choir will sing “I Heard the Voice of Jesus”, “Hail Mary, Gentle Woman”, “We Remember”, “Song of Farewell”, and “On Eagle’s Wings”. Mass server is Peter Rausch and Eucharistic Minister is Jerry Brickner. Lector will be Brent Kruse, offertory gift bearers will be Lauri Finnegan and family, and Prayers of the Faithful will be said by Don Rausch.

There will be a Wake Service at the Church 5:00 PM Friday with visitation beginning 4:00 PM.

Ruth Mary Miles (Rausch) Van Well, daughter of John P. and Meta (Loding) Miles was born June 28, 1926 near Seneca, SD. Her formal education consisted of rural school and Polo High School, Class of 1944.

Ruth married Michael (Harold) Rausch, son of Nick and Catherine Rausch, on August 29, 1950 in St. Anthony’s Catholic Church in Hoven.

Harold and Ruth lived and farmed 5½ miles southwest of Hoven. They were blessed with five children. Harold was killed in a tragic farm accident on October 28, 1959. Ruth moved into the town of Hoven with their five children. She married Aloysius Van Well on June 25, 1960. Ruth and Aloysius had one child. Ruth and Aloysius resided in Hoven, where Aloysius was self-employed as a plumber and electrician. Aloysius died on December 19, 2002.

Ruth enjoyed a 25 year career as an LPN, having taken her college and nurses training at Presentation College and St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen, SD. She also worked for Social Services and RESPITE in the care of the elderly. Ruth was active in Alois’ business, her family and in the
community. She was an active member of St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, St. Anthony’s Altar Society, the Catholic Order of Foresters, American Legion Auxiliary, Holy Infant Hospital Auxiliary, Hoven Prayer Group and other organizations in the community. She enjoyed baking, gardening, sewing, crocheting, playing cards and letter writing.

Grateful for having shared Ruth’s life are four sons: Arnold (Debra) Rausch of Laurel, MD, Donald Rausch and Reynold Rausch of Rapid City, SD, Larry (Tamara) Rausch of Blanchester, OH; one daughter, LaVonne (Earl) Kruse of Aberdeen; Six grandchildren Brent (Kellee) Kruse, Lauri (Mike) Finnegan, Alicia Rausch, Rachel Rausch, Emma Rausch and Robert Rausch; Three great grandsons Benjamin and William Finnegan and Marcus Kruse; and one brother, Paul "Hank" Miles of St. Paul, MN.

She was preceded in death by her father on July 4, 1965, her mother on June 28, 1995, both husbands, an infant daughter (Sheila), a son, Andrew Van Well, a sister, Dorothy Braun and a brother, John Miles.

Honorary bearers will be the staffs at the Holy Infant Hospital in Hoven and the Bowdle Nursing Home.

Casketbearers will be Ruth’s children and her son-in-law.

Lien Funeral Home, Bowdle, is in charge of arrangements.

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