

Mary Margaret Rothanburg was born on July 30, 1921, in a farm house at Foley, MN. She was the daughter of John and Mary (Sopkowiak) Rothanburg. Mary attended country school until the eighth grade. At the age of 12, Mary and her family moved to Brainerd, MN, and lived in a home on Lake Edward – north of Brainerd. Her father was a wood craftsman and made many beautiful pieces of furniture, some of which the Berlinger grandchildren and great-grandchildren still have in their homes. They were a farm family. They also had a fishing cottage on their homesite, and rented fishing boats. They entertained many fishermen from the Twin Cities. Many became long-lasting friends.

At the age of 17, Mary moved to St. Paul and worked as a housekeeper for several families in the Summit Avenue area of St. Paul. She had many stories to tell of working for very wealthy families. She always came home each summer to help her folks with the fishermen. Mary also worked a few years for Minnesota Mining. She roomed at Rose Webb's home in St. Paul. Marie Hagen was a neighborhood friend, and felt that Mary needed to get to know a certain young gentleman from Chokio. She arranged to have Mary meet Steve Berlinger the next time he visited the cities. It was a match made in heaven; they met in June of 1944, and were married on November 25, 1944, at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in St. Paul. Steve and Mary purchased a farm northwest of Chokio. Together, they worked hard to turn that land into a very productive farmland, and Mary turned the old house into a comfortable home. They raised crops, cattle, hogs, chickens, and ducks. They lived on the farm until the fall of 1977, when they built a new home in Chokio.

Mary was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Chokio. She was a member of Christian Mothers & Women and St. Mary's Guilds. Mary was a hardworking farmwife, mother of four children, and had a large garden every summer, with vegetables and lots of flowers. She canned many vegetables and fruit, made her own bread, and was known for her rosettes and caramel rolls. Her hobbies included crocheting, sewing clothing, sewing rugs and quilts, embroidering dish towels, making twirlers, and watching polka shows on television. She had several accordions and organs that she self-taught and played "by ear." She was passionate about finding her ancestry; she connected later in life with many cousins that she never knew growing up.

Preceding her in death was her husband of 45 years, Steve; two great-grandchildren: Isaac Berlinger and Brody Berlinger; parents: John and Mary Rothanburg; and brother, John Rothanburg.

Mary is survived by her four children: John (Mary Lou) Berlinger of Chokio, MN; Mike (Donna) Berlinger of Chokio, MN; Rose (Norm) Freske of Otsego, MN; and Mary (Roger) Hill of Chokio, MN; 13 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; (plus two more on the way); sister-in-law, Lorraine (Rothanburg) White; as well as nieces, nephews, and many cousins.







### **GOD'S GARDEN**

God looked around his garden  
And found an empty space;  
He then looked down upon this earth  
And saw your tired face.

He put his arm around you  
And lifted you to rest;  
God's garden must be beautiful,  
He only takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering,  
He knew you were in pain,  
He knew you might never  
Get well upon this earth again.

He saw the road was getting rough  
And the hills were hard to climb,  
So He closed your weary eyelids  
And whispered, "Peace be thine".

It broke our hearts to lose you,  
But you never went alone,  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you Home.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

## ***Mary Margaret Berlinger***

WHO WAS BORN  
July 30, 1921 - Foley, Minnesota

AND CALLED TO HER ETERNAL HOME  
June 27, 2018 - Graceville, Minnesota

SERVICES  
Monday, July 9, 2018 - 10:30 a.m.  
St. Mary's Catholic Church - Chokio, Minnesota

CELEBRANT  
Father John Paul Knopik

MUSICIANS  
Becky Draper, Organist  
St. Mary's Choir  
Amanda Hill & Sarah Douglass, Musicians

CASKET BEARERS  
Norman Freske, Beth Sabolik, Bruce Berlinger, Michael Freske, Alisa Rustand,  
Mark Berlinger, Anna Anderson, Melissa Ritter, Kate Fernholz, Amanda Hill,  
Steven Berlinger, Emily Bring, and Sarah Douglass

HONORARY BEARERS  
Danna Sabolik, Kiersten Sabolik, Kailey Ritter, Brady Sabolik,  
Kali Berlinger, JJ Sabolik, Chylar Ritter, Austin Berlinger,  
Timothy Rustand, Emma Berlinger, Riley Sabolik, Madilyn Berlinger,  
Eva Rustand, Tyler Berlinger, Kelly Berlinger, Natyah Ritter, Tyler Rustand,  
Drea Fernholz, Leah Berlinger, Taylor Rustand, Molly Berlinger, Hayden Bring,  
Sophia Bring, Lyla Anderson, Mya Fernholz, and Kai Berlinger  
Grace Home Staff  
Knute Nelson Hospice Staff

INTERMENT  
St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery - Chokio, Minnesota

APPRECIATION  
Mary's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.  
Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply  
appreciated. Following the interment, please join the family  
for lunch and fellowship at the parish hall.

ARRANGEMENTS BY  
Mundwiler and Larson Funeral Home - Ortonville, Minnesota