



Noranda Frances Gelardi

September 17, 1940 - April 14, 2026

GELARDI, Noranda Frances (nee Zorzit). April 14, 2026. Age 85.

Beloved wife of the late Thomas Gelardi. Proud and adored mother of Edie (David) Gelardi Damus, Lisa (David) Gelardi Bottesi, and Sherri (Kurt) Dettloff. Cherished grandmother of Blake, Madison, Makenzie, and Bryce. Loving sister of the late Elida Ribauda, Mary Bringas, and Aurora Riss. Dear sister-in-law of the late Larry Ribauda, the late Ben Riss, the late Salvatore “Chuck” Gelardi, and the late Laura Gelardi. She is also survived by many wonderful nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Luigi and Regina (Del Bel Belluz) Zorzit.

Noranda was born in Windsor, Ontario, and moved to Detroit after graduating from high school. Shortly thereafter, she met Tom, the love of her life. They were married for 61 years. She did everything possible to create the best life for their family. Every meal was home-cooked, and every birthday featured homemade, hand-decorated cakes. Easter was celebrated with matching, hand-sewn outfits for her three daughters and herself. Christmas morning was never complete without a visit from Santa Claus. She took every opportunity to make life special.

Above all, Noranda loved and cherished her three daughters. They were the center of her universe, and there was nothing she would not do for them. She created a wonderful childhood, giving them opportunities to explore many

activities, including dance, gymnastics, cheerleading, ice skating, swimming, and Girl Scouts. She was always present, cheering them on from the front row. This was especially evident in her involvement with Encore's yearly dance recital, where she handled every detail, both big and small. Her ability to pivot quickly and her keen eye for detail were immensely appreciated.

When her daughters married, she welcomed her sons-in-law into the family with open arms, embracing them with love and appreciation. She adored each of them, and they brought her great pride and joy. When it came to her grandchildren, she took every opportunity to be with them—setting aside time each week to spend with Blake, traveling to Los Angeles for all of Madison and Makenzie's birthdays, and leaving the house at 5:30 a.m. to be with Bryce.

Noranda cared deeply for others and gave of herself to make the world a better place. In the early 1980s, she volunteered with Meals on Wheels and was known to purchase personal items for a shut-in on her route. For many years, she organized Backpacks for Kids and Coats for Kids. Later, she ran the kitchen for the Macomb County Warming Center, providing shelter and hot meals for those in need. In 2010, she received the Outstanding Warren Volunteer Award for her work there.

She was a founding conference member of St. Faustina's St. Vincent de Paul. For the past 10 years, she passionately managed the food pantry, helping families in need with food and essential supplies. Living by her motto, "Just ask—the worst they can say is 'no,'" she secured numerous donations that helped hundreds of families.

She loved cooking, entertaining, sewing, and ceramics, but her greatest passion was her garden. Her flowers put on a beautiful display each summer for all to enjoy. She had a remarkable gift for helping them flourish, evident in

the beauty and abundance she created year after year. Her garden also produced numerous vegetables, including cucumbers, herbs, lettuce, and many varieties of tomatoes. She received two City of Warren Beautification Awards in 2017 and 2025.

A lifelong learner, at age 36, Noranda returned to college. She earned her associate degree and began a career as a Purchasing Manager at Trac-Tech. She became known for her sharp negotiating skills, strong work ethic, and ability to build lasting relationships.

Noranda will be deeply missed and forever remembered for her unwavering love, generosity, and the joy she brought to all who knew her. She was known for saying, and would want us to remember, "to count our blessings."

Visitation will be held Sunday from 3-8pm with a 7pm Rosary at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc. 36900 Schoenherr at Metro Parkway (16 Mile). Instate will be Monday at 10am. Mass at 10:30am at St. Faustina Catholic Church, 14025 12 Mile Rd, Warren, MI 48088. Entombment at Resurrection Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to St. Vincent de Paul, St. Faustina Conference.

Please share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guestbook" at WujekCalcaterra.com at WujekCalcaterra.com

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 19. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Rosary

APR 19. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Instate / Funeral Mass

APR 20. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Faustina Catholic Church
14025 12 Mile Road
Warren, MI 48093

Tribute Wall

CB

“ Dear Edie, Lisa & Sherri...I worked with your mom at Tractech and she was a wonderful co-worker and a wonderful friend too! We may have not talked with each other as often as we would have liked but we did keep in touch via greeting cards and email. Your mom once gave me a recipe for her Breaded Chicken (that I make often) but now I will cherish that recipe and think of her every time I make it. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you and your families at this time. With sincerest sympathy, Carol Bubak



Carol Bubak - April 19 at 09:05 PM

TA

“ Mrs. Noranda, it has been truly an honor to have you apart of our lives for all these years, thank you for being so kind, caring, and loving towards my family and I. A true blessing to all. I will forever cherish every memory until we meet again one sweet day.



Tanikka - April 19 at 08:58 PM

RK


“ *Mr. and Mrs. Gelardi were a dynamic couple. I looked forward to seeing them at the dance recitals for many years. My nieces Angela and Mary were students then teachers with Lisa and Sherri. I would see the Gelardi family at Mass at St. Faustina Church and was always greeted with a warm smile and peace sign. I saw Mrs. Gelardi and Lisa in church on Good Friday. We exchanged a quick hello and hug. A wonderful memory I will keep in my heart. God bless and keep the Gelardi family safe.*

Rosemary Konwerski (AKA - Auntie Rose)

Rosemary Konwerski - April 19 at 02:54 PM

RW

“ *Dear Gelardi Family... Your Mom and I were friends for over 35 years. Violet, Carol, Your Mom and I worked together at TracTech for such a long time and developed a strong friendship No words can express how much we loved her. We followed your lives over the years, and she was always so proud of your accomplishments. We prayed for each other always. I will miss her as I know you will. Stay strong together and love each other. I know both of your parents will be watching over you. Sincerest sympathy and prayers*



Renee Warrick

Renee Warrick - April 19 at 01:13 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Noranda Frances Gelardi.



April 19 at 02:23 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Noranda Frances Gelardi.

April 19 at 02:23 AM



“ Glenda Cole purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Noranda Frances Gelardi.



Glenda Cole - April 18 at 06:17 PM



“ Glenda Cole planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Noranda Frances Gelardi.

Glenda Cole - April 18 at 06:17 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Noranda Frances Gelardi.



April 18 at 12:45 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Noranda Frances Gelardi.



April 18 at 12:32 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Noranda Frances Gelardi.

April 18 at 12:32 PM



“ Dawn of Remembrance Basket was purchased for the family of Noranda Frances Gelardi.



April 18 at 09:54 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Noranda Frances Gelardi.

April 18 at 09:54 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Noranda Frances Gelardi.*



April 17 at 11:08 AM



“ *Thank you Mrs Noranda for always allowing me to be vulnerable in your space, I am truly honored to have experienced you for so many years. Thank you for your unwavering love and kindness, your presence will be missed more than words can express.*



Tam - April 17 at 06:50 AM



“ *Debbie McNaughton and family purchased the In Heaven's Arms Bouquet for the family of Noranda Frances Gelardi.*



Debbie McNaughton and family - April 17 at 12:23 AM



“ *Debbie McNaughton and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Noranda Frances Gelardi.*

Debbie McNaughton and family - April 17 at 12:23 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Noranda Frances Gelardi.*



April 16 at 09:30 PM



“ *Being Noranda’s older sister, I remember holding her hand as we would walk to school together. I taught her how to jump rope. We loved playing ball, jacks and ice skating. We laughed and cried together. When I moved out of state, Noranda lovingly wrote me a letter every week for three years with a funny note, cartoon or silly story. She helped take my loneliness away. She was my best friend when we were growing up and it continued throughout our lives. I will miss her dearly. I know she is together again with Tom and God. Blessings to all the Gelardi family. Aurora Riss*

Aurora Riss - April 16 at 09:25 PM



“ *Jeremy & Andrew Walker purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Noranda Frances Gelardi.*



Jeremy & Andrew Walker - April 16 at 09:10 PM

WR

“ *Sherri, Lisa, Eddie and families,
Your Mom was such a beautiful, kind, loving lady who always had a beautiful smile to share and brighten other people's day. I loved getting to know your family- my sister knew how to pick a friend! Sending continued prayers for all of you in this difficult time and lots of hugs to each and everyone of you.*
Wendy (VanHouteghen) Rzeppa

Wendy Rzeppa - April 16 at 08:59 PM

JV

“ *Noranda was very special friend, who got me involved with the Warming Center and St Vincent de Paul at the church. Knowing your mom and dad are together again organizing things in heaven can bring all of us get comfort.*

Judi Vargo

Judi Vargo - April 16 at 06:20 PM



MP

“ I've had the privilege of knowing Mrs Gelardi for 36 years. Most of my fondest memories of her were in my dance years. I started in the Gelardi basement, taking dance lessons from her daughter Lisa, then her daughter Sherri. They became family. Mrs. Gelardi was no longer my dance instructor's mother, but she became a dance mom to all who entered the studio. She was our photographer at dress rehearsals and one of our biggest cheerleaders at recitals. Before every recital, she would come back stage to wish us good luck. When I worked for Estee Lauder, she would come to all our makeup events. She told me she doesn't usually let people do her makeup. So I felt honored that each event she asked for me to do her makeup. I was blessed to have both Mr. & Mrs. Gelardi at my wedding. I was so happy for them, standing with one other couple as being married the longest during the anniversary dance. Every time I saw Mrs. Gelardi, she would always ask me about the my foster children and that she was always praying for them. I can't tell you how much that meant to me. She was so sweet with a such a big heart. She will be greatly missed. ❤️

Mary Petzer - April 16 at 03:44 PM

DS

“ Dick, Kris, Susan, Harper & Saylor purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Noranda Frances Gelardi.



Dick, Kris, Susan, Harper & Saylor - April 16 at 10:28 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Noranda Frances Gelardi.*



April 16 at 09:03 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Noranda Frances Gelardi.*



April 15 at 10:37 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Noranda Frances Gelardi.*

April 15 at 10:37 PM



“ *Matt & Stephanie Sinnreich purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Noranda Frances Gelardi.*



Matt & Stephanie Sinnreich - April 15 at 08:53 PM

SR

“ Noranda was such a kind soul. She was always smiling. I will miss receiving her Christmas cards. It may sound silly, but I'm an employee of her daughter. Her cards were special to me. Be at peace with Tom, Noranda

Sue Rush - April 15 at 06:58 PM

LH

She truly is one of a kind. 💔😭 I'm Kurt's sister and Sherri's sister-in-law.

Lisa Headen - April 15 at 07:05 PM

LH

“ Miss Noranda, thank you for everything, you are by far one of the most loving individuals here on the side of Earth. Your loving ways, your kindness, your sincerity, and your generosity does not go unnoticed or unforgotten. My family and I love you so much, we will continue to praise you and share the beautiful memories that we have with you and the family. I am so happy to have you as a part of my family. You have the most beautiful bright spirit. Shine brightly now and forever more beautiful lady. Thank you for being exactly who you are!! I hope and pray you know just how much we will always love you and we have the best memories of you. I love you, Lisa, Tamara, Tanikka, and the kids. Be free, be happy, give a big hug to Mr Tom, and my dad, and everyone else up there with you that we love. You will shine bright forever in our hearts until that fateful day when we all meet again someday, it will be truly a grand reunion for all of us someday.



Lisa Headen - April 15 at 06:31 PM

DW

“ 2 files added to the album Aunt Noranda at Christmas time 2025



Donna Ribaldo Walton - April 15 at 04:56 PM