



In Loving Memory

Sister Carol Catherine Berres, SSND

Born in Milwaukee on March 1, 1930, to George and Agnes (Zenner) Berres, she was baptized Carol Catherine at St. Anne Church in Milwaukee. She was the third child of six but two siblings died at birth. Because of the Great Depression, her parents sought inexpensive housing which resulted in moving frequently during her elementary years. Carol attended five different Catholic schools.

Following her eighth grade graduation, she entered the SSND aspiranture at Academy of Our Lady in Chicago for her first two years of high school. She completed her high school studies at the Milwaukee motherhouse in 1947. In 1948, as a novice, she received the religious name Mary Raymian, a name she chose after her Uncle Ray and Fr. Damian who worked with the lepers. She kept this name until 1968 when she went back to her baptismal name.

She professed her first vows on August 11, 1949. Her profession class came to be known as the Forty-Niners because of their support for one another and continuing to do things together. Sister Carol received her bachelor's degree with a major in English and minors in history and sociology in 1961 from Mount Mary College, Milwaukee.

Sister Carol served in elementary education for 20 years as a teacher and principal. Her school missions included: St. Michael, Milwaukee; St. Mary, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Francis, Milwaukee and St. Mary, Elm Grove, Wis. In Fort Wayne, she taught the primary grades which she loved and a number of students continued their contact with her through the years.

Another fulfilling time in ministry for Sister Carol was at Mount Mary College, now known as Mount Mary University from 1969-1978, when she took on a number of positions: assisting in the admissions office, managing the book store and working in the library. Mount Mary was dear to Carol's heart because her mom had cooked for the students and sisters for about 20 years. Carol told how she and her mom would have time together talking and sharing during their break time. Family was so important and meaningful to Carol. When she received a picture of a member of her family she taped the picture to the wall near her prayer stand so she could remember that person in prayer.

Another highlight in Carol's life started in 1979 when she studied at St. Joseph's and St. Luke's hospitals in Milwaukee to become a certified pastoral care minister. This led her to Notre Dame of Elm Grove in 1981 to open a pastoral ministry department for the sisters. Among her initiatives was to recruit and train 35 sisters to visit and minister to sick and infirmed sisters, as companions for their journey. And how Carol loved this ministry! She said in her autobiography, "These were some of the sweetest years of my life."

The last years of Sister Carol's life were spent with others ministering to her since she often was living in another reality. With retirement in 1986, she

Birth
March 1, 1930

Baptism
March 16, 1930

Profession
August 11, 1949

Death
January 24, 2015

Burial
Notre Dame of
Elm Grove Cemetery
Elm Grove, Wisconsin

*Precious and blessed is
the death of the faithful
before God... for
they die in union with
their dear Jesus, in the
grace of God, in peace.*

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
Letter 11, September 10, 1831

continued

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lived in the community at Notre Dame of Elm Grove. She was missioned on February 17, 2011 to Our Lady of the Angels in Greenfield, Wisconsin.

Prayer was very important to Carol. She said, "I'd be lost without it." A favorite passage Carol had among her things was the one God spoke to Julian of Norwich when she was not well,

"I never said Julian, you would not be troubled,
what I said was that you will never be overcome."

Somehow, Carol could resonate with this passage throughout her life. Carol, you are home now with your God. The struggle is over, may you be at peace. Carol, thank you for sharing your life with us. We love you!

Sister Carol Catherine Berres died on January 24, 2015 at Our Lady of the Angels in Greenfield, Wisconsin. She was 84. Sister Carol is survived by her sister Rosemary Heitkemper, her brother Norbert (Judy) Berres, nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and the SSND Community.

*This remembrance is compiled from SSND archival information
and the eulogy presented by Sister Jolene Heiden, SSND*