



Birth
January 28, 1942

Baptism
February 15, 1942

Profession
July 31, 1961

Death
February 26, 2013

Sister Carol
donated her body to
St. Louis University
School of Medicine

*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

In Loving Memory

Sister Carol [Mary Theresa] Kleba, SSND

The oldest of six children was born to Marie [Sextro] and Joseph Kleba on January 28, 1942, in Normandy, Mo. She was baptized at St. Ann's Church on February 15, 1942, and received the name Carol Frances. Four sisters and one brother completed the Kleba family. This close-knit family received from their parents a sense of industry, ingenuity and openness to challenge.

Carol entered St. Ann's Grade School in Normandy, Mo. where she was taught by the Sisters of Loretto. Her interest in learning enabled her to move from first to third grade after only a month of doing second grade work. By the time she was in the fifth grade, she knew she wanted to be a sister. She enrolled at Rosati-Kain High School where she met the School Sisters of Notre Dame. In her senior year, she decided to enter SSND because she was good in school and teaching seemed sensible and she saw that these women were happy being sisters.

Carol entered the candidature on August 27, 1959, at Sancta Maria in Ripa. She was received into the novitiate on July 20, 1960, and given the name Mary Theresa. First vows were pronounced on July 31, 1961, and final vows on July 29, 1966.

Sister Carol received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Notre Dame College, St. Louis, Mo. in 1963. She was awarded a Master of Religious Education degree in 1973 from Loyola University of Chicago.

Sister Carol taught junior high students for one year at Our Lady of Loretto, St. Louis. The next seven years, she taught chemistry, math and religion at Mater Dei High School, Breese, Ill.; Notre Dame High School, St. Louis, Mo.; and Quincy Notre Dame, Quincy, Ill.

In 1971, she began a two year bout with sickness that radically changed her. Due to a fungus growth in her lung, she had lung surgery followed by months of hospitalization. Restored to health, she served as campus minister at Notre Dame High School and Rosary High School, St. Louis, Mo. During this time, she was instrumental in developing the high school campus ministry program in the St. Louis Archdiocese. A major aspect of this program was preparing spiritual directors for high school students.

In 1982, she responded to God's call to minister in Africa. Sister Carol taught secondary students at Yengema and Kabala, Sierra Leone; college students at the Women's Teacher College in Port Loko, Sierra Leone. During the civil war in Sierra Leone, she joined the Polish SSNDs in The Gambia and helped set up a vocational sewing school. Her last four years of ministry in Africa was serving as postulant directress in Nigeria.

Returning to St. Louis in 2003, she broke her hip and had several surgeries, requiring pain management the rest of her life. In 2009 and 2012, she had surgery for breast cancer. However, during these times, her creative nature blossomed as her sewing skills came to the forefront. She received an ongoing

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Carol Kleba



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**School Sisters
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Central Pacific Province

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bounty of donated fabrics and created twin-size blankets and personal cloth bags for foster children through Voices for Children. Sister Carol also crafted baby quilts, Afghans and layettes for Birthright and the Ripa Gift Shop.

In early February 2013, she was hospitalized for tests. She was transferred to Anna House, Bridgeton, Mo. in mid-February and placed on hospice. She said her final YES to God on February 26, 2013, at 11:05 p.m. at Anna House with her brother, Joseph, and sister-in-law, Kathy, keeping vigil at her bedside. Sister Carol donated her body to St. Louis University School of Medicine.

A memorial Mass was celebrated in the Theresa Center chapel on March 2, 2013. Rev. Gerald Kleba, a cousin, was the presider. Sister Carol is survived by her five siblings: Joanne (Bob) Kinnison of St. Charles, Mo.; Joe (Kathy) Kleba of St. Charles, Mo.; Mary (Bill) DuParri of Ballwin, Mo.; Patricia Snelson of Hilton Head, S.C.; and Theresa (Ed) Lavin of St. Charles, Mo. Nieces, nephews, relatives, friends, classmates and SSNDs attended the memorial service.

Following her return from Africa, she formulated her own personal mission statement in which she made choices regarding simplicity of life: food, purchases, recycling, etc. She made network connections with persons who shared a vision of the integrity of creation. She held discussion groups on topics sponsored by Northwest Earth Institute. Her homemade greeting cards and homemade earth-friendly shopping bags were often given as gifts.

Each major movement in Sister Carol's life brought her to a deeper spirituality: her sufferings from lung surgery, her service as a campus minister, her ministry in Africa where she experienced the poverty of the people and the challenges of initial formation work, her involvement in the new cosmology and a new understanding of the Universe. May she now rest in the peace of God and enjoy the fullness of eternal life!

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND