



Birth
January 26, 1930

Baptism
February 5, 1930

Profession
August 2, 1951

Death
February 11, 2015

Burial
Sancta Maria
in Ripa Cemetery
St. Louis, Missouri

*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 Clare [Paul Clare] Reinert

“We work in the service of the Lord as long as God wishes. We are in God’s hands.” These words of our foundress, Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, were written to her sisters in 1877 (#5317) and were the words spoken to us for February 11 in *Trust and Dare*. How appropriate that God called Sister Clare home on this day from her long life of ministry and service to God’s people.

While a blizzard raged in Dubuque, Iowa on January 26, 1930, the third child and second daughter was born to Ida Loewen and Joseph Reinert. She was baptized on February 5, 1930 at SS. Peter & Paul Church in Sherrill, Iowa and named Clare Therese. Over the next years, the family grew to 14 children: nine boys and five girls. As the children grew, they worked together on the family farm, played together in the back yard and prayed together, especially the rosary. The family was poor and the sacrifice of a Catholic education was a big one for the parents. The children were enrolled in SS. Peter & Paul School in Sherrill and taught by the Franciscan Sisters.

After graduation from elementary school and through the influence of her aunt, Sister Aloyne Reinert, Clare attended Notre Dame High School in St. Louis, Mo., as an aspirant. During her senior year, she was affirmed in her decision to become a sister. She entered the candidature at Ripa on September 1, 1948. As a second year candidate, she taught grades three and four at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Herrin, Ill. She was received as a novice on August 1, 1950 and given the name Paul Clare. Profession of first vows was on August 2, 1951 and final vows on August 2, 1957.

Sister Clare received a bachelor’s in theology from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, Mo. in 1957 and a master’s degree in home economics from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menominee, Wis. in 1962.

Following profession, Sister Clare began 64 years of ministry as a School Sister of Notre Dame. She taught elementary students at St. Wenceslaus, St. Louis, Mo. and St. Anthony, Baton Rouge, La. She taught secondary students at Notre Dame High School and the former Rosary High School in St. Louis, Mo.; and at the Academy of Our Lady, Chicago, Ill. She was principal at St. Paul High School, Highland, Ill.

Sister Clare served two years in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo. as coordinator of education and curriculum. She gave 15 years of service in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Calif.: five years as associate superintendent of schools, three years as coordinator of the San Pedro Pastoral Regional Council and seven years as director of the Pastoral Councils Office.

In 1997, she answered the call to serve in the Diocese of Charleston, S.C. As pastoral administrator of the Catholic Community Northeast in Columbia, S.C., Sister Clare assisted in the beginnings of a new parish, Transfiguration, in nearby Blythewood. She also served as the parish administrator at St. Theresa Mission in Winnsboro, S.C.

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Clare Reinert



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She returned to Missouri in 2003 and began a new ministry as executive director of the Texas County Food Pantry and Thrift Shop in Houston, Mo. Here she came face-to-face with poverty, its root causes and effects on the lives of people. She was responsible for emergency needs and funding while overseeing 80 to 100 volunteers. She noted: “this ministry is collaboration, working together with many agencies, groups and persons ‘to make one’ as we are called.”

In 2012, she moved to St. Louis and began a volunteer ministry at Feed My People. Here, she assisted persons in writing resumes, applying for employment, etc. Over 150 persons have received employment with her assistance. She spent her last day on earth ministering to the poor and marginalized at Feed My People. God called her to eternity, very unexpectedly, during the morning hours of February 11, 2015, at her convent home.

A wake service was held in Theresa Center chapel on February 15, 2015. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with Rev. Edmond Fitzgibbon presiding. As snow fell, her body was buried in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery. Many relatives, colleagues, friends and SSNDs attended the funeral services.

Sister Clare is survived by three sisters: Catherine (Stanley) Orman of San Rafael, Calif.; Lucy (Kenneth) Donovan of Maquoketa, Iowa; Molly (Michael) Murray of Olney, Ill.; and five brothers: Charles (Dolores) and Francis (Beverly) of Dubuque, Iowa; Bernard (Delores) of Kirkwood, Mo.; Peter (Betty) of Hazelgreen, Wis.; and Raphael (Glenda) of Sherrill, Iowa. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Mary Noosen; four brothers: John, Joseph Anthony, Herman and Joseph G. Reinert.

Sister Clare had a deep love and affection for her family, which was so evident at the time of her funeral. She was remembered as an efficient and organized teacher and administrator. A leader who sought to draw forth the potential of those with whom she ministered, she used her gifts and talents to build up the Kingdom of God on earth. Once a direction or focus was identified, she courageously directed her energies to accomplishing it. Her wit and humor assisted her in many challenging situations. She had a special love and concern for the poor and marginalized as seen in her past 12 years of ministry. A quiet and unassuming person, she peacefully entered eternity. Sister Clare placed her life in God’s hands and God took her home. May she now rejoice in the reward God has prepared for her as she is reunited with her family members!

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND