

In Loving Memory

Sister M. Francis Borgia Stauder, SSND



Birth
April 7, 1911

Baptism
April 16, 1911

Profession
August 7, 1933

Death
June 17, 2012

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

The second of six children was born April 7, 1911, to Frances [Mast] and Frank Stauder in Witt, Ill. On April 16, 1911, she was baptized at St. Barbara Church in Witt and given the name Mary Genevieve. Her family consisted of her faith-filled parents, two brothers and three sisters.

Mary Genevieve received her elementary and secondary education in the public school system in Witt. Her mother and a zealous pastor provided religious instruction for the children. After her confirmation at the age of 14, she assisted the pastor in teaching catechism to the younger children of the parish.

During her high school years, she took music lessons from the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Nokomis, Ill. Inspired by their example and encouraged by Sister Ancilla Luebbers, she entered Ripa as an aspirant to continue her studies. She entered the candidature the following year on August 28, 1930, and enrolled at Notre Dame Junior College. During her second year of candidature, she was missioned to Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Louis, to teach 50 fourth graders. Mary Genevieve was received into the novitiate on July 27, 1932, and given the name M. Francis Borgia. Profession of first vows was on August 7, 1933, and final vows on August 7, 1939.

Sister Francis Borgia taught primary children for one year at St. Joseph, Farmington, Mo. and secondary students at St. Mary of the Pines, Chatawa, Miss., prior to studying for two years to complete her bachelor's degree at St. Louis University. During her eight years of teaching at St. Francis Borgia High School, Washington, Mo., she obtained a master's degree in mathematics at Notre Dame University in Notre Dame, Ind. Following this teaching experience, she spent two years completing her Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.

She taught mathematics at Le Clerc College, Belleville, IL for two years. At its closure in 1949, she was hired as the first superintendent for the newly organized Westphalia, Mo. R-3 district schools and principal of the high school in Westphalia. Two years later, she was appointed administrator for the Aviston Community High School in Aviston, Ill., a position she held for three years. In 1954, she began 16 years of teaching mathematics and philosophy at Notre Dame College in St. Louis.

She served as provincial leader of the St. Louis Province from 1965-1971. In the early 1970s, she coordinated the work of the St. Louis Province volunteer translators of the letters of Mother Theresa. With the close of Notre Dame College in 1977, she became involved in the spiritual development programs of the province which provided spiritual direction and offered retreats to individuals and groups. She gave classes on SSND heritage, and continued as a retreat and spiritual director until her retirement.

As her memory failed and she needed more care, she was missioned to Anna House in April 2005. In mid-June 2012, she was placed on hospice. She peacefully gave her 101 years to God on June 17, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. at

continued

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Anna House, shortly after the sister keeping vigil with her prayed “Into your hands, Father, I commend my spirit.”

The wake/vigil was held at Anna House and Theresa Center on June 20, 2012. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with Rev. Ron Chochol as presider. Burial was in the center circle in the Ripa Cemetery. Survivors include her brother, Maurice of Witt, Ill.; an “adopted” sister, Rosemary Ehrlich of Munice, Ind.; nephews, nieces, relatives. Sisters, former students and colleagues, friends, joined the family for the funeral services.

As superintendent of the newly organized Westphalia R-3 public school district, Sister Francis Borgia oversaw the centralization of faculty and student records from the 12 elementary and five high schools in the district. At the same time, she was principal of the high school in Westphalia and taught math and science.

A profound scholar, she discovered the Stauder Theorem in Mathematics during the course of her doctoral work. Her interest in the new mathematical trends enabled her to share her knowledge with hundreds of teachers of mathematics. At the close of a semester’s work, she would remind the students, “Freely have you received, now freely give.”

Sister Francis Borgia was elected provincial leader on the day Vatican Council II closed. She was in leadership during the crucial initial years of responding to the Vatican II mandate for renewal of religious life. Her quiet strength and insight guided the province during those challenging years. More than 1,000 SSNDs were in the St. Louis Province during her term of leadership. A quiet, gentle and visionary person, she initiated spiritual development programs and encouraged educational advancement of the sisters during her administration. Like Mary, she pondered the issues and challenges that she encountered and responded with wisdom and insight.

She was a member of the SSND Corporation for the St. Louis Province for over 20 years, giving her time and wisdom to assist in providing a responsible and stable financial management for the congregation.

Music was her initial contact with SSND and she became a gifted pianist. Her love for music was present until her dying days.

As she now enters eternal life, may she be welcomed by her family, friends and SSNDs who have gone before her! May God give her fullness of life and bless her for the many contributions she made to the life and mission of SSND and the Church!

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND