

In Loving Memory

Sister Mary Christopher Stock, SSND



Birth
June 21, 1913

Baptism
June 29, 1913

Profession
August 2, 1940

Death
March 1, 2012

Burial
Santa 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 third oldest of twelve children was born to Mary Ann [Jennemann] and Joseph Stock on June 21, 1913, in the family home in St. Louis, Mo. She was baptized at St. Joseph's Church on June 29, 1913, and given the name Loretta Clara. She had six sisters and five brothers.

Loretta attended St. Joseph's School for three years where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. When the family moved to Jennings, Mo., she attended Corpus Christi School staffed by the Ursuline Sisters. She continued her education at Rosati-Kain High School. After three years, she discontinued when her mother needed her assistance at home following the birth of her youngest brother. For four years, she remained at home helping with the care of her nine younger siblings. Following the death of her father and a younger sister's willingness to assume her responsibilities, Loretta returned to Rosati-Kain to complete her high school education. She graduated at the age of 22. She remained at home but experienced a difficult struggle between answering God's call to religious life and caring for her younger brothers and sisters. Finally, her mother told her, "If you still want to be a sister, you are free to go. I was 24 years old when I married; now you are 24."

She entered the candidature at Ripa on September 1, 1937. She was received into the novitiate on August 1, 1939, and given the name Mary Christopher. Profession of first vows was on August 2, 1940, and final vows on August 2, 1946.

For 42 years, Sister Mary Christopher taught elementary students from kindergarten to grade six. She ministered at St. Francis de Sales and St. Wenceslaus, St. Louis, Mo.; St. Peter, Jefferson City and Sacred Heart, Rich Fountain, Mo.; St. Joseph, Holtville, Calif. In Illinois, she served at St. Joseph, Cobden; St. Stephen, Caseyville; St. Charles, DuBois; St. Philip, East St. Louis; St. Michael, Radom. For five years, she cared for the five-year old children at St. Elizabeth Day Nursery, St. Louis, Mo. Her last eight years of active ministry included teaching part-time in the learning center at Our Lady of Loretto, St. Louis, Mo. and assisting in the occupational therapy department at Villa Gesu. A memorable year was the 1948-49 school year when she had 103 children in kindergarten, 60 boys and 43 girls, at St. Francis de Sales. When she was sent to Rich Fountain, she had 21 pupils and kept looking for the rest of the children.

During World War II, a woman who wished to have a family came to the sisters and asked if they could do something for her. She would repair rosaries and gather religious articles to be mailed to the military chaplains. She advertised for contributions through Catholic magazines. Religious articles and money came from all parts of the United States. Sister Mary Christopher was assigned the task of receiving the mail, sorting and shipping the materials. Rosaries, medals, scapulars and prayer books were shipped to chaplains until the war ended. The last package she mailed

continued

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**School Sisters
of Notre Dame**
Central Pacific Province

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THROUGH EDUCATION

was sent to a chaplain in Munich who gave it to our sisters to distribute. Donations covered the cost of postage.

Sister Mary Christopher attended several colleges during the summer months and finally at the age of 41, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Webster College, St. Louis, Mo.

In 1990, she retired at Villa Gesu. When the Villa closed in 1999, she was missioned to Veronica House and transferred to Anna House in 2006. She died unexpectedly around 7:20 a.m. on March 1, 2012, at Anna House. She was a participant in "The Nun Study."

A wake/vigil was held at Anna House and Theresa Center chapel on March 6, 2012. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with Rev. Ron Chochol presiding. Among her many survivors are a niece, Sister Leona Wieck, SSND, and a cousin, Sister Andre Aubuchon, SSND. Nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and SSNDs attended the funeral services. Burial was in the Ripa cemetery.

Sister Mary Christopher greatly loved her family and put their needs before her own. She was an excellent educator of young children and prepared many for the reception of the Sacraments. She was a prayerful and happy person with a quick smile for everyone. May she now rejoice in the fullness of life promised by God to those who teach the little ones!

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND