



Birth
October 20, 1922

Baptism
October 22, 1922

Profession
August 19, 1943

Death
June 23, 2013

Sister Maurice 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 M. Maurice Weyer, SSND

“I considered the mission of teaching children to know God such a noble task. I always felt strongly that it was my duty and responsibility as a teacher to motivate and challenge the students to do their level best. I knew I had to prepare them to take their rightful place in this life, and above all, in the life to come.” This conviction was the driving force that enabled Sister Maurice to minister in classroom teaching for 61 years.

On October 20, 1922, the fourth child was born to Anna [Kopp] and Henry Weyer in Coldwater, Ohio. She was baptized two days later at Holy Trinity Church in Coldwater and named Vivian Elizabeth. The first two children born to the Weyer family, Dorothy and Stanley, had died in infancy but God blessed the parents with five children who reached adulthood. Vivian grew up with her brother, Maurice, and three sisters: Audrey, Jean and Ruth [our Sister Jean Ann].

Mr. Weyer had been injured in World War I. Due to his poor health, the doctor advised that the family move out of the city of Coldwater. So when Vivian was four years old, they moved to a farm near Washington, Mo., the hometown of her mother. The children received a truly Catholic education at home and in the evening would pray together to the Sacred Heart or say the rosary.

Vivian was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Francis Borgia Grade and High School. On her first Communion day, the pastor stated that Sister Carella [Retzer] was getting older and someone would be needed to take her place. Vivian felt an urge to be that someone. Daily she prayed for the grace to know her vocation. A few days before high school graduation, she made her decision to enter the convent. Her parents were very encouraging and supportive of her decision.

She entered the candidature at Ripa on August 28, 1940 and began her college education. She was received into the novitiate on July 29, 1942 and given the name Mary Maurice, in honor of her one living brother. Due to complications following an appendectomy, she remained out of the novitiate for 19 days and was not permitted to profess first vows with her class. She participated in the ceremony but was not allowed to say her name when it was her turn. After the three visiting days, she returned to the novitiate for 19 days. She professed her first vows on August 19, 1943, witnessed by members of her novitiate class. She was permitted to renew her vows with her class. However, she was not permitted to make her final vows with them, although she once again, participated in the ceremony. She pronounced her final vows on August 19, 1949 in the St. Louis motherhouse chancery, kneeling before the large crucifix.

Sister Maurice was the first of her class to go on mission and she began a ministry which she dearly loved. She taught religion, math and science to junior high students at St. Paul, Highland, Ill.; St. Francis Solanus, Quincy, Ill.; Immaculate Conception, Jackson, Mo.; Immaculate Conception,

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister M. Maurice Weyer



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

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
THROUGH EDUCATION

Dardenne, Mo.; St. Martin of Tours, St. Louis, Mo. She was also principal in Jackson and Dardenne. She taught secondary students at St. Mary High School, Cape Girardeau and Duchesne High School, St. Charles, Mo.; St. Dominic, Breese, Ill.

The last 31 years of classroom teaching was at Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Louis, Mo. In 2004, she began tutoring at Notre Dame Tutorial/Learning Center. When it closed in 2009, she tutored for three years at Notre Dame High School. In 1989, Sister Maurice received the Miriam Joseph Farrell Award presented by the National Catholic Educational Association in recognition of her distinguished service to Catholic education. She was the first teacher in the St. Louis Archdiocese to receive this award. Six times she was selected for inclusion in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

Sister Maurice kept a notebook listing every student she taught since 1943 and prayed for them daily with this prayer found on the first page of her notebook: *Dearest Jesus and Mary, I humbly beg you to bless and protect these, my students. Keep them very near to You and preserve them from sin. Please let them put into practice some of the lessons I have tried to teach them. Please give them all the graces they need so we may all meet in Heaven. Mary, be a Mother to them and lead them safely to Jesus. S.M.M.*

In April 2013, Sister Maurice was diagnosed with uterine cancer. In May, she celebrated her 70th jubilee of religious profession at Theresa Center and had surgery several days later. On June 18, tests indicated that the cancer had returned. She was placed on hospice and family members and sisters kept vigil with her. She died peacefully at Theresa Center infirmary on June 23, 2013 at 8:35 a.m. as sisters, including Sister Jean Ann, prayed at her bedside. Sister Maurice donated her body to St. Louis University School of Medicine.

A memorial Mass was celebrated on June 25, 2013 at Theresa Center. Rev. Joe Uvietta, SM was presider and Rev. Clyde Grogan concelebrated. Attending were her three surviving sisters, Sister Jean Ann, SSND, and Audrey Fuller of St. Louis, Mo. and Jean Zraggen of Hartwell, Ga.; nieces, nephews, cousins. A large number of former students and friends from Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish in Dardenne were also present. Classmates, community members and SSNDs joined them to celebrate her life among them.

A quiet, prayerful and grateful woman, she kept in touch with students, friends, prisoners, etc. Her compassion was visible as she responded to those in need through prayer, phone calls or letter. An excellent and no-nonsense educator, Sister Maurice followed her Master Teacher as she inspired thousands of students to reach their potential. May she now rejoice in her new and eternal life which she so desired for all of her students!

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND