

In Loving Memory

Sister Patricia [Miriam Patrice] Mueller, SSND



Birth
June 3, 1947

Baptism
June 15, 1947

Profession
July 29, 1967

Death
April 25, 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

After five boys, a little girl was born to Catherine [Ahrens] and Herman Mueller on June 3, 1947, in St. Joseph Hospital, St. Charles, Mo. She was baptized on June 15, 1947, at St. Peter Church, St. Charles, and named Patricia Ann. Three more children joined the family and Patricia grew up with six brothers and two sisters.

Patricia attended St. Peter Elementary School and Duchesne High School in St. Charles where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. During her junior year, she became interested in religious life through her association with the sisters. She received the candidate's veil at her home parish and the next day, August 25, 1965, she entered the candidature at Ripa.

She was received into the novitiate at St. Louis Cathedral on July 28, 1966, and given the name Miriam Patrice. She professed first vows on July 29, 1967, at the motherhouse in St. Louis. Perpetual vows were pronounced on May 27, 1972, at St. George Church, Linn, Mo.

Sister Patricia was an elementary educator for 13 years at Sacred Heart, Lawrence, Neb.; St. George, Linn, Mo. and St. Philip, East St. Louis, Ill. She then ministered to children with disabilities at St. Mary's Special School, St. Louis, Mo. for five years. In 1987, she entered a new profession as a nurse aide at Villa Gesu. After a year at the Villa, she studied for her R.N. degree at Missouri Baptist School of Nursing in St. Louis. She served our elderly and sick sisters as a nurse for nine years. During this time, she was also the director of nursing services at Villa Gesu. In 1999, she received training in massage therapy and ministered as a nurse and a massage therapist at the SSM Health and Wellness Center in St. Louis. She returned to Catholic education and taught for nearly 10 years at St. Catherine of Alexandria and John Paul II elementary schools in St. Louis, and Sacred Heart in Troy, Mo.

She was awarded a bachelor's degree in American Studies from Notre Dame College, St. Louis, Mo. in 1969; a master's degree in Spirituality from Mundelein College, Chicago, Ill. in 1981; and a registered nurse degree from Missouri Baptist School of Nursing, St. Louis, in 1990.

In October 2010, Sister Patricia was diagnosed with leukemia. Several rounds of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant were not successful in bringing about a remission of the cancer. She was placed on hospice on April 23, 2012; anointed the following day and died peacefully in the infirmary at Theresa Center on April 25, 2012, around 5:45 a.m. Her two sisters and two SSND community members were at her bedside as she gave her life to God.

A wake/vigil was held at Theresa Center on April 30, 2012. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning in the Theresa Center chapel. Co-presiders were Rev. Tom Wissler, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Troy, Mo. and Rev. Don Wester, former pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in St. Louis. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery.

continued

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

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Sister Patricia is survived by her six brothers: George, Robert, Richard, Henry, Jerry and Don; and her two sisters, Anne Zeisler and Cindy Mueller; in-laws, relatives, classmates and friends. SSNDs, relatives, friends, former students, classmates, parishioners from Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Good Counsel attended the funeral services. SSND Leadership members from Rome, Africa, Japan, Canada and the United States were attending a meeting at Ripa and participated in the services.

Sister Patricia was remembered as a grateful, optimistic, gracious and loving person. Family and community were very precious to her and she was cherished by them. Her kind, gentle and compassionate care endeared her to young and old. Her years of ministry spanned working with elementary children and their families to caring for the sick and aged.

Her valiant struggle with leukemia was an example for all of us. In the midst of treatment, she tried to live life to the fullest each day. Those who cared for her and those who met her were inspired by her acceptance and surrender to the path that had been laid out for her. May she now rejoice in celebrating the fullness of her new life with her Risen Savior!

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND