



Birthday
August 2, 1930

Baptism
October 17, 1930

Profession
August 2, 1951

Death
September 30, 2014

Burial
Chatawa Cemetery
Chatawa, Mississippi

*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 Pauline Rappold, SSND

Frances Pauline Rappold and her twin brother, Paul Francis, were born on August 2, 1930, in Yoakum, Texas. They were the fifth and sixth of Thomas and Helen (Moore) Rappold's seven children.

The Rappold family moved first to Port Arthur, Texas, then to Conway, Ark. Pauline was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame for all 12 years of elementary and secondary education at St. Joseph School in Conway.

When asked what sparked in her the thought of being a religious she responded, "When I read the story of St. Therese of the Child Jesus in the fourth grade reader I wanted to be like her."

As she progressed through her readers and her music studies with Sister Theogene Miller, she elaborated on the flaming of that spark, "The sisters' dedication and prayerfulness, their care and consideration for one another and for all of us attracted me to their way of life."

Following her high school graduation in 1948, Pauline chose to enter religious life and began her spiritual and professional preparation to be a School Sister of Notre Dame at Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis. As a second year candidate she experienced teaching at St. Joseph School in Ridgeway, Ill. Pauline received the habit and the name Miriam Paul. After the novitiate year she professed her vows in 1951.

For most of her 20 years in the elementary school classroom, Sister Pauline taught children in the primary grades in Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas and New Mexico. Along with her school work she was often in charge of church music and taught piano and violin lessons.

While in Albuquerque in 1969, she was called to coordinate the religious education program in the parish for the people of the Mexican and Native American cultures. As director of religious education programs along with some assignments in pastoral ministry she dedicated herself during the next 22 years to parishes in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona.

Her religious education ministry called her to accept great responsibilities and necessitated travelling many miles between the several church parishes she served. Those who lived in community with her marveled at her stamina and at her pleasant participation.

The work demands took their toll. In 1994, Pauline reflected, "I sensed the need to redirect my education endeavors. As I discerned, I realized the needy and numerous millions of adult illiterates in the world, I prepared to re-tool." Using her background and experience in teaching beginning readers in the primary grades, Sister Pauline studied the methods and materials of an adult literacy program.

Challenged by the low literacy rate of the incarcerated, Pauline was accepted to direct the program at the Winn Correctional Center in Winnfield, La. A tutor in the program portrayed Pauline's ministry there, "The class

continued

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Central Pacific Province

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instructor keeps all students and tutors focused on the goal of our class — on HOPE — as they learn to read and write. She is a very caring person who only wants the best for each one of us. She gets personally involved with each student and her caring and kindness have a positive influence on each person in the class.”

Asked to name her most enjoyable and interesting ministry she pondered, “Perhaps the ministry to the very poor and pained people of God at the Correction Center for I was able to give the very best of my many years’ development — the best of me to an extreme need.”

As the former Dallas Province initiated an adult literacy program in 1998, in Canton, Miss., and needed a teacher-trainer, it was a “natural” that Sister Pauline’s expertise would be sought to fill the position. Sister Monica remembers her patience and endurance with the less-than-regular learners in the program and said, “Even when Sister Pauline’s memory began to fail, she remembered her professional material and developed it with her clients.”

In 2007, due to general health needs and memory challenges, Sister Pauline moved to St. Mary of the Pines retirement program in Chatawa, Miss. Despite her declining health, Sister Pauline kept her beautiful smile and sunny disposition. She loved to be helpful with small tasks and to take part in community activities.

Sister Pauline’s health declined rapidly in the last months and days. She went to her eternal reward, surrounded by the prayer of her sisters, on September 30, 2014. We pray that her angelic smile and song be joined to that of the heavenly hosts.

Morning prayer and visitation were on October 2, 2014, at 9 a.m. followed by the Mass of Christian Burial, at St. Teresa Church in Chatawa. The pastor, Rev. Suresh Thirumalareddy, was the celebrant.

Sister Pauline was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers and her sister. She is survived by many nieces and nephews, nine of whom were present for her funeral.

By Sister MarieClare Powell, SSND