

# *In Loving Memory*

## Sister Mary Rose Gerau, SSND



**Birth**  
March 19, 1923

**Baptism**  
March 25, 1923

**Profession**  
July 27, 1945

**Death**  
July 8, 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

On the feast of St. Joseph, March 19, 1923, the eighth child was born to Lulu Mary [Frank] and Joseph Gerau in Overland, Mo. She was baptized on the feast of the Annunciation, March 25, at All Souls Church, Overland, and named Dolores Josephine. She was the youngest child in a family of three boys and five girls, which included our deceased Sister Dolore and another sister who was the mother of Sister Rose Mary Ryan, SSND.

Dolores attended All Souls Grade School where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Following in the footsteps of her older sister, she received her high school education as an aspirant at Notre Dame High School. After graduation, she was employed for one year as a filing clerk for General Insurors in St. Louis.

Dolores entered the candidature at Ripa on August 26, 1942. After two years of college courses, she was received into the novitiate on July 26, 1944, and given the name, Mary Rose, her older sister's baptismal name. Profession of first vows was on July 27, 1945, and final vows on July 27, 1951.

Sister Mary Rose earned a bachelor's degree in education from Webster College in St. Louis in 1955 and a master's degree in elementary administration from Loyola University in New Orleans in 1965.

Sister Mary Rose ministered for 40 years in elementary education with the majority of those years teaching primary children. In Missouri, she taught at St. George, Linn; St. Thomas, St. Thomas; Immaculate Conception, Loose Creek; St. Engelbert, St. Hedwig and St. Martin of Tours in St. Louis; Our Lady of Lourdes, Washington; and St. Charles Borromeo, St. Charles. She taught for eight years at St. Mary, Gainesville, Texas. In Illinois, she taught at St. Peter Cathedral and St. Mary's in Belleville. In the early 1960s, she was assigned as assistant to the Aspirant Directress at Ripa for one year. She served as librarian at Blessed Sacrament, Belleville, for six years.

During her retirement years, she did volunteer ministry at Blessed Sacrament in Belleville for four years. She then returned to her home parish, All Souls, Overland, Mo., where she lived with another SSND and visited the elderly and the sick during these past 16 years.

Sister Mary Rose suffered a massive stroke while attending a birthday celebration at Anna House on July 8, 2012. She was anointed and died peacefully at De Paul Hospital, Bridgeton, Mo. at 11:04 p.m. as four SSNDs, a niece, Elizabeth, and a nephew, Jim, prayed with her. She greatly missed her older sister, Sister Dolore, and entered eternity exactly eight months after Sister Dolore's death.

A wake/vigil was held in the Theresa Center chapel on July 10, 2012. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with Rev. Robert Leibrecht as presider. Burial was in the Ripa cemetery.

*continued*

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

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Sister Mary Rose is survived by her niece, Sister Rose Mary Ryan, SSND, of Bridgeton, Mo.; other nieces, nephews and relatives. Family members, friends, parishioners from All Souls parish in Overland and SSNDs attended the funeral services.

Sister Mary Rose was a very quiet and unassuming person who loved her primary children. Over the years, she prepared hundreds of children for the reception of the sacraments of penance and Eucharist. She exhibited a quiet calmness which put everyone at ease. A prayerful person, she had a deep devotion to Our Lady. She was a gentle, gracious and grateful woman whose smile was warm and welcoming. She was very giving of herself, liked to cook and desired to please others. A sports fan, she enjoyed watching the St. Louis Cardinals' and the St. Louis Blues' games. As she enters eternity, may she be embraced by her family and the God she served so faithfully during her lifetime!

*By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND*