



**Birth**  
November 21, 1923

**Baptism**  
December 2, 1923

**Profession**  
July 28, 1944

**Death**  
November 19, 2014

**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

## *In Loving Memory*

### Sister M. Susanne Hornung, SSND

**D**orothy Mae, the second oldest of seven children, was born to Estelle [Swederske] and Charles Hornung on the feast of the Presentation of Mary, November 21, 1923, in St. Louis, Mo. She was baptized on December 2, 1923, at Nativity Parish. She cherished her name because Dorothy means “gift of God” and Mae signified the special protection of Mary. She grew up with four sisters and two brothers in a loving and faith-filled family.

Dorothy attended Nativity Grade School which was staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who were a source of inspiration for her. She felt the desire to become a sister during these elementary school years. She enrolled at Rosati-Kain High School where she also became acquainted with the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She continued to pray to Mary for enlightenment regarding her future. During her senior year, one of the SSNDs inquired about her future plans. Dorothy spoke of her desire to teach poor and neglected children and to be a foreign missionary, but initially she had no inclination to join SSND. Through the interest of this sister and several visits to the St. Louis motherhouse at Sancta Maria in Ripa, Dorothy felt that the answer to her prayer for guidance was confirmed and she was being directed to join the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

She entered the SSND candidature on August 28, 1940. Her first two years were spent taking college courses. During the third year, she taught first graders at Our Lady of Sorrows in St. Louis. She was received into the novitiate on July 27, 1943 and given the name Mary Susanne. She pronounced first vows on July 28, 1944 and final vows on July 28, 1950.

Sister Susanne received a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Webster University, St. Louis, in 1952; a bachelor’s degree in music education from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1954 and a master’s degree in elementary administration from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind., in 1969.

Following her profession of vows, she ministered in elementary education for 39 years. In Missouri, she taught at St. Aloysius, St. Louis; St. Clare, St. Clair; St. Martin, Jefferson City; St. Charles Borromeo and St. Peter, St. Charles; St. Michael, Shrewsbury; St. Bridget, Pacific; St. Martin de Porres, Hazelwood. In Illinois, she taught at St. Joseph, Freeburg; St. Henry and St. Teresa in Belleville. She also taught at Our Lady of Lourdes in Mobile, Ala. and St. Elizabeth in Alice, Texas. For 13 of these years, she was also principal at St. Bridget, Pacific; St. Joseph, Freeburg and St. Teresa, Belleville. Later, Sister Susanne ministered in religious education at St. David, in Arnold, Mo., for four years and was a support staff member at Assumption, in St. Louis, for nine years. She was in community service at the St. Louis motherhouse for 12 years.

In 2009, she retired at Veronica House and was transferred to Anna House in 2011. This past summer, she celebrated her 70th jubilee of religious

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister M. Susanne Hornung*



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

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profession. In early November 2014, she was placed on hospice. Sister Susanne died peacefully at Anna House on November 19, 2014 at 1 a.m. as a sister prayed with her. God called her home two days before her 91st birthday.

A wake/vigil was held at Anna House and Theresa Center on November 23, 2014. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with Rev. Edmond Fitzgibbon presiding. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery. Relatives, friends, SSNDs attended the funeral services.

She is survived by three sisters: Margaret Nuernberger of Bridgeton, Mo.; Ruth Whitworth of St. Louis; Evelyn Horning of Cedar Hill, Mo.; and one brother, William Hornung of St. Paul, Minn.; many nieces, nephews and their children. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Miriam McMaing and brother Thomas Hornung.

Sister Susanne was a dedicated educator and adapted her ministry to fit the needs of those she was teaching. She was open to new ideas and was energized by new experiences, especially traveling. She was remembered as an excellent storyteller and someone who had a great enthusiasm for life. She deeply cherished her family and friends and they were devoted to her. She was cheerful and patient as she experienced her physical limitations.

When she was 12-years-old, she began piano lessons and learned to memorize the notes. Two years later, she began to play the violin and soon realized that she could play whatever she heard. The gift of music was a grace for her, especially as her eyesight diminished. She treasured being the keeper of a violin given to the former the St. Louis Province by Mother Almeda Schricker, in gratitude for their assistance during World War II. A gifted musician, Sister Susanne continued her music ministry at The Sarah Community by playing the violin for sisters, residents and staff on their birthdays.

May Sister Susanne now see her God face to face and join the choirs of angels and saints as they praise and give glory to the God she served so faithfully!

*By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND*