



Birth
August 21, 1917

Baptism
August 23, 1917

Profession
August 2, 1940

Death
April 7, 2015

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. Henriette Hoene, SSND

The fifth child and fourth daughter of Catherine (Schmidt) and Henry Hoene was born on the family farm in Green Creek, Ill. on August 21, 1917. Two days later, she was baptized in Our Lady, Help of Christians Church and named Mary Magdalen. Four sisters and two brothers completed the Hoene family. When she was six years old, her father died shortly before Christmas after suffering several years from cancer.

Mary and her siblings walked the three miles to the one-room public school taught by an elderly lay man. Prayers at home and in the parish church were in German. When she was in fourth grade, a two-room school was built and two women were hired as teachers. One had been taught by School Sisters of Notre Dame and through her, the desire to become a sister was awakened within Mary Magdalen. Also, the pastor had four sisters who were SSNDs. To fulfill her dream, Mary became the first girl from Green Creek to go to high school, attending Teutopolis Township High School where SSNDs were teaching. During these years, in addition to homework, she was needed to do chores on their family farm.

Following graduation, with the blessing of her widowed mother and family, she entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa on September 2, 1936. She had two years of college courses, taught four months at Holy Ghost in St. Louis, Mo., when she was called to full-time study at St. Louis University in the spring of 1939.

She was received into the novitiate on August 1, 1939 and given the name, Mary Henriette in memory of her father. Profession of first vows was August 2, 1940, and final vows on August 2, 1946.

Following profession, she was assigned full-time study but a high school teacher was needed at Valley Park, Mo. She taught science, math, typing and shorthand for one year. She completed her degree in chemistry in July 1942 from St. Louis University. She taught at Rosati-Kain High School, St. Louis for 11 years. In 1951, she received a master's degree in education from St. Louis University.

In 1953, she was assigned as assistant novice directress for one year. She was then given the challenge of co-principal of a merged Redemptorist Grade and High School in New Orleans. Two years later, she was recalled to become assistant novice directress. Seven years later, she assumed the responsibility of novice directress and continued in this position until she was elected general councilor in 1968. During this time, she attended summer school and was granted a master's degree in theology in 1963 from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash.

One of her greatest contribution during her time in Rome related to the letters of Blessed Theresa. Sister Henriette was instrumental in securing copies of the letters which were stored in the Vatican and coordinating the copying and translation of these letters into English. She was one of the sisters who worked extensively on the beatification of Blessed Theresa.

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister M. Henriette Hoene



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

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
THROUGH EDUCATION

Returning to the United States in 1977, she received preparation as a retreat/spiritual director. She was a member of the motherhouse leadership team for two years and then served in parish ministry to the elderly at St. Francis de Sales, St. Louis. Seven years later, she became a member of a team ministry for nine rural parishes in the Teutopolis, Ill. area. She cared for family members who were dying of cancer for five years before returning to Sancta Maria in Ripa to sew in the Liturgical Fabric Arts Department. She also translated obituaries of sisters printed in German. Through her international contacts, she secured information and collaborated with the project which related the experience of European Catholic sisters under Communism.

In February 2006, she was asked to go to Veronica House to provide for the sewing needs of the sisters. Her health required her to be missioned to Anna House in 2013. She died peacefully at Anna House on April 7, 2015 about 3 p.m. with sisters keeping vigil with her.

A wake/vigil was celebrated at Anna House and Theresa Center on April 10, 2015. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with her nephew, Rev. Paul Habing, as presider. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Pauline (Henry) Hoene, numerous relatives, students, friends and SSNDs. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Herman (Clara) and Henry; her sisters Celia (Allie) Nieman, Betty (John) Habing, Christine (Albert) Habing and Bertha (Stanley) Kopczynski.

A woman of common sense and many gifts, her many accomplishments were less important to her than an intimate relationship with her God. These known and unknown contributions were her way of responding to the God who loved her so much. This love flowed into the affection and care she shared with her family in good and challenging times. Her numerous letters are a treasure for her family as they recall her as a role model and loving friend.

During her 75 years as a School Sister of Notre Dame, Sister Henriette was an example of a woman of transformation: from a farm girl in a small town in Illinois to a general councilor in Rome with great responsibilities. She adapted to the many changes that were called for in this international, post-Vatican II world. As a member of an international community, her horizons extended beyond one country. She was a true daughter of Blessed Theresa giving herself whole-heartedly to fostering the charism of her beloved foundress. May she now experience Easter joy as she is reunited with family, SSNDs and friends!

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND