



**Birth**  
July 20, 1949

**Baptism**  
Aug. 23, 1949

**Profession**  
Jan. 1, 1970

**Death**  
Aug. 21, 2016

**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 Kathleen Izer, SSND

Sister Kathleen (Kathy) Izer, 67, died Sunday, Aug. 21, 2016, in Notre Dame Health Care, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, Minnesota. A recurrence of cancer, along with other health issues, caused her to enter Hospice about two weeks prior to her death. Several sisters were keeping vigil with her when she died. At the time of her death, she was a member of Caroline Community on Good Counsel Hill.

Kathy was born July 20, 1949, in Los Angeles, California. Kathy, the second child in the family, was baptized Kathleen Ann at St. Francis Xavier Church, Pico Rivera, California. Kathy attended St. Hilary Catholic School from first grade through the first half of sixth grade. She completed her elementary education at St. Marianne's School, graduating from eighth grade in 1963. She had School Sisters of Notre Dame as teachers in both schools.

Kathy's high school years were spent at the Notre Dame Aspiranture in Sunland, California. During these years, Kathy became more conscious of her call to become a School Sister of Notre Dame. She wrote, "I realized that I would like to enter the School Sisters of Notre Dame. My brother had joined the Salesians of St. John Bosco and he was happy; religious life became a real option for me." On Aug. 20, 1967, Kathy received her postulant's veil at St. Marianne's. She arrived in St. Louis on Aug. 24 and entered the postulancy, preparing "to be a teacher and give myself to Christ through helping his people in every way I could." She was received into the novitiate on July 27, 1968, and given the name Sister M. John Mark. Within a few months, SSNDs could return to their baptismal names; she chose this option and became Sister Kathleen, more commonly, Sister Kathy. She professed vows in 1970.

In 1971, Sister Kathy graduated from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, with a degree in history. Her first five years of teaching were back in her beloved California: St. Aloysius, Tulare; St. Rita, San Diego; and St. Helen, Fresno. She taught social studies and religion classes, and coached softball and volleyball. In 1976, she returned to the St. Louis area, where she taught at Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Louis; St. Theresa, Belleville, Illinois; and St. Mary, Alton, Illinois. While she was teaching in Alton, she began a master's program in theology at St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas, which she completed in 1985. In 1984, she moved to Notre Dame High School, Quincy, Illinois, her first experience teaching high school. Three years later, she became the director of religious education (DRE) at St. Francis Parish, Quincy.

In 1990, she moved back to California, where she was the DRE at St. Paul's Parish, Los Angeles. In 1992, she became the religion teacher at St. Pius X School in Downey, California, a position she held for three years. She then became dean of discipline at St. Mary Star of the Sea High School in San Pedro, California. As she started her third year there, she was asked by the SSND community to be part of a committee to explore writing an international history of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She resigned her

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Kathy Izer*



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high school position and became a member of the committee. Following completion of her committee work in 1998, she again returned to high school ministry, this time at Junipero Serra High School in Gardena, California. As ninth and tenth grade academic counselor, she established a tutorial program for at-risk students. In 2003, Sister Kathy moved into the eleventh and twelfth grade academic counselor position. She spent five years working with juniors and seniors, getting them ready for college. When she left Serra in 2008 to work in the SSND Archives department, she was featured in *The Cavalier*, the school paper: "Sister Kathy's most memorable times have been watching students grow and evolve. She loves witnessing the glow in their eyes when they find out they have been accepted into the college of their dreams."

In the spring of 2008, Sister Kathy was asked to become an archivist intern for the St. Louis province. She took a short sabbatical in fall and began work in the archives in 2009. In fall 2010, she transferred to the Mankato province archives. Her love of history and attention to detail suited her well for this ministry. She also joined with other Central Pacific Province archives personnel in contributing monthly articles to *Connections*, the province's internal newsletter for sisters, associates and staff members; her final article was published in the September 2016 issue.

Sister Kathy loved to sing and play the guitar. She was a faithful member of the Good Counsel Chapel Choir, and has been described as "remarkably faithful" to any venture to which she committed herself. As a person who preferred to be behind the scenes, she was willing to do anything to help out from that perspective. She loved nature and truly missed mountains whenever she was stationed in the Midwest. She cheered for her beloved Los Angeles Dodgers and Angels in Cardinal and Twins territory. When her health permitted, she took full advantage of fishing opportunities in Minnesota and just enjoyed being near the water, even if the fish weren't hungry.

Sister Kathy's SSND province of origin was St. Louis. She came to the Mankato Province in 2010 to work in the archives department. When the Central Pacific Province was formed in 2011, she became an associate archivist based in Mankato. Because of her ministry at two sites, there were services at both Mankato and St. Louis locations.

A morning prayer with sharing of memories was held at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato on Aug. 24, followed by a memorial Mass. At Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, a wake service was held at 7 p.m. on Aug. 26. A funeral Mass was held Aug. 27, at 11:15 a.m., followed by burial of her cremains in the cemetery.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wesley and Consuela (Perez) Izer, and her brother, the Right Reverend Archimandrite Wes Izer, who died this past March.

*By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND*