



**Birth**  
April 25, 1940

**Baptism**  
May 12, 1940

**Profession**  
July 29, 1960

**Death**  
October 25, 2021

**Burial**  
Santa 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 Barbara (Francella Marie) Boedeker

The oldest of seven children born to Rosella (Telscher) and Francis Boedeker entered the world at St. Mary's Hospital, St. Louis, on April 25, 1940. On May 12, 1940, she was baptized at St. Liborius Church and named Barbara Mary Ann. Four sisters and two brothers joined the family. The last child was born during Barbara's year in the candidature but died three months later due to heart failure.

Barbara's mother died in February 1970. Her father remarried giving the Boedeker siblings a stepmother, stepbrother and stepsister. Barbara was devoted to her stepmother, Gladys, and cherished and cared for her as her own mother.

Barbara attended All Souls Elementary School in Overland, Missouri, where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). She desired to become one of them and her parents, relying on God's help for the care of the family, made the difficult decision to permit her to enter the Aspiranture at Sancta Maria in Ripa for her high school education.

She received the candidate's veil at All Souls Church, Overland, on August 24, 1958, and came to Ripa the following day. On July 28, 1959, she entered the novitiate and received the name Francella Marie, a combination of her parents' names. She professed first vows on July 29, 1960, and final vows on July 29, 1966. She later returned to her baptismal name.

After a year in the Juniorate, Sister Barbara was missioned to St. Peter, St. Charles, Missouri, to teach seventh grade for a sister who was ill. Six weeks later, when the sister had recovered, she was assigned to Sacred Heart School in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, to teach third and fourth grades. Correspondence courses and returning for the May and summer sessions allowed her to graduate from the former Notre Dame College with her classmates in 1962, with a bachelor's degree in history. She returned to Poplar Bluff, Missouri, to teach primary students.

Sister Barbara was an elementary teacher for another 31 years ministering at: St. Martin of Tours, Washington Park, Illinois, and St. Michael, Radom, Illinois. In Missouri, she taught at Most Pure Heart of Mary, Chamois; St. Joseph, Apple Creek; St. Joseph, Kimmswick; St. Aloysius, St. Louis; All Souls, Overland; Our Lady, Festus. She helped to close the mission at Chamois, Missouri. She was principal at Apple Creek, Missouri for two years and later tutored at St. Gabriel, St. Louis.

Sister Barbara also assisted as an aide in the occupational therapy department at Villa Gesu, the retirement home for SSND. She was a driver at Sancta Maria in Ripa and since 1999, a volunteer in many community service assignments at Sancta Maria in Ripa. She assisted in record-keeping related to health insurance issues for Anna House and Veronica House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri.

In December 2008, Sister Barbara was missioned to Veronica House and later to Anna House in 2016. She died peacefully at DePaul Hospital, St. Louis, on the

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Barbara Boedeker*

morning of October 25, 2021, with a sister at her bedside.

A prayer service was held at The Sarah Community on November 2, 2021. The following morning, funeral services were held in the Theresa Center chapel. There was a reading of her biography, sharing of memories and Mass of Resurrection with Rev. John Eagan, OFM as celebrant. Family members, friends, classmates and SSND were in attendance. Her burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery.

Sister Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, stepmother and her sister, Catherine. She is survived by her sisters: Joyce Schene of Florissant, Missouri; Donna (Jim) Pratt of Fairview, Oregon; Phyllis Morgan of Florissant, Missouri; and her brothers: Bernard (Angie) of St. Charles, Missouri and Gerard (Cheryl) of Ferguson, Missouri.

Sister Barbara was deeply devoted to her family. In her youth, family circumstances forced her to assume many responsibilities; she courageously embraced these. She was dependable and showed loving care for her family members and later for the many children who would become part of her life. She was creative and enjoyed the simple things of life.

Sister Barbara is probably best known for the thousands of butterflies she made out of two-liter plastic bottles. The sale of these has resulted in a tremendous contribution to the missions in Africa and Honduras. Her service in the Gift Shop at Veronica House was a great joy to her. She volunteered wherever she could.

Sister Barbara concluded her autobiography, “Lord, grant me the strength to meet this day. Please take my hand and lead the way. Teach me trust and patience too, in my daily tasks, which I must do. When I falter, hear my prayer and hold my hand.” God gently took her hand and brought her home to her parents and those she loved. Free from her sufferings, may Sister Barbara now rest in God’s peace and loving care.

*By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND*

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