



In Loving Memory

Sister Barbara (Albert Maureen) Kraus

Sister Barbara Kraus, 77, passed away unexpectedly shortly before midnight on September 5, 2022, at Trinity Trace Community Care Center, Covington, Louisiana.

On the feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 1945, the second of five children was born to Anna Rose (Calvert) and Albert Kraus in New Orleans, Louisiana. She was baptized on January 21 at St. Mary of the Angels Church and named Barbara Ann. She grew up with two brothers and two sisters. When she was 6 years old, the family moved to Chalmette, a suburb of New Orleans. Ten years later, they moved to Arabi, another suburb of New Orleans.

Barbara attended kindergarten at St. Mary of the Angels in New Orleans. She attended Mereaux Public School in Chalmette for two years until the Catholic school opened in the new parish dedicated to Our Lady of Prompt Succor. In August 1952, the School Sisters of Notre Dame came to staff the school. Barbara was attracted to the sisters due to their spirit of love and concern shown to the school children. After sharing this with her parents, she asked to attend the Aspiranture at St. Mary of the Pines, Chatawa, Mississippi. Her parents consented and Barbara completed her high school education there.

She received the candidate's veil at her home parish in Arabi on August 24, 1962. The next day, she left for Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, to begin her preparation for religious life. Since the new motherhouse for the recently founded South Central (Dallas) Province was not yet built, Barbara and her classmates from the south went to St. Louis. She was received into the novitiate on July 31, 1963, at the St. Louis Cathedral and given the name Albert Maureen in honor of her father. She later returned to her baptismal name. She professed first vows on August 1, 1964 in St. Louis, and final vows on August 1, 1969 at the motherhouse in Irving, Texas.

She was awarded a bachelor's degree in American Studies from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1966 and a master's degree in Special Education from the George Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee, in 1974.

Sister Barbara was an elementary teacher for 11 years at St. Gregory, Tyler, Texas; St. Jerome, Kenner, Louisiana; Madonna Manor, Marrero, Louisiana; and St. Francis of Assisi, Brookhaven, Mississippi. She was a principal at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Dallas. She was a house parent at Madonna Manor, Marrero, Louisiana. For 11 years, she was the special education administrator at Notre Dame of Dallas Special School, Dallas. In 1993, she was elected a provincial councilor for the former Dallas Province.

After two terms of provincial leadership, she began her ministry at PEPI (Progressive Education Program, Inc.), an adult learning center in New Iberia, Louisiana. Sister Barbara was in charge of the computer lab for five years. She taught the students basic word processing skills and reinforced academic skills. She became the director of the entire program at PEPI in 2007. For 11 years, she

continued

Birth
January 6, 1945

Baptism
January 21, 1945

Profession
August 1, 1964

Death
September 5, 2022

Burial
Chatawa Cemetery

*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

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gave leadership and guidance to teachers and adult students in providing GED, reading, language and literacy courses.

In 2018, she moved to St. Mary of the Pines, Chatawa, Mississippi, and in October of the following year to St. Anthony's Gardens, Covington, Louisiana. As her health needs increased, she was transferred to Trinity Trace Community Care Center in April 2021.

Sister Barbara was remembered at a wake and prayer service at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Covington, Louisiana, on September 16, 2022 followed by the Mass of Christian Burial. Interment was in Chatawa Cemetery, a SSND community cemetery, in Chatawa, Mississippi. Family members, SSND, colleagues and friends attended the funeral services.

Sister Barbara is survived by her sister Susan McNeil of Metairie, Louisiana, her brother James Kraus of Bourg, Louisiana, and extended family members. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Sandra Alfonso and her brother, Albert Kraus, Jr.

Sister Barbara was remembered as a person who was full of life, joyful, loved to dance, supportive, eager to tell stories, always ready to share, open to new ideas and concepts and she had a deep love for her family and friends. Sister Barbara's dedication to her teachers and students was an inspiration to all who knew her. She truly lived her conviction that to improve one's community, country and world one needs to do all that is possible to change and improve the life of one individual at a time. May she now rest in the peace of her God whom she served so faithfully in the poor, children with special needs and the adult learners.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND

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