



Birth
November 4, 1938

Baptism
November 6, 1938

Profession
July 31, 1958

Death
January 10, 2022

Burial
Donated body to St. Louis
University School of Medicine

*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 Carol (Miriam Gabriel) Markus

On November 4, 1938, twin girls were born to Genevieve (Kues) and Leo Markus in Aviston, Illinois. They were baptized on November 6, 1938, at St. Francis of Assisi Church and given the names of Carol Catherine and Joan Catherine. The family of five girls and one boy were raised on the family farm in Aviston. The parents' love of the land and deep love of God and the Church were passed on to the children. Carol's twin sister, Joan (Miriam Michael), and a younger sister, Theresa (Raphael Marie), entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND).

Carol attended St. Francis of Assisi Grade School which was staffed by the SSND. She felt drawn to religious life through their example. She also credits her vocation to the prayers of her grandmother and mother who prayed daily for a religious vocation in the family. Carol began her high school education at Aviston Community High School. In her sophomore year, she transferred to the aspiranture at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis.

Carol, and her twin sister, Joan, received the candidate's bonnet at their home parish in Aviston on August 29, 1956. She was received into the novitiate on July 30, 1957, and given the name Miriam Gabriel. She professed first vows on July 31, 1958, and final vows on July 31, 1964. Later, she returned to her baptismal name.

Sister Carol earned a bachelor's degree in theology from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1961; a master's degree in education-guidance counseling from St. Louis University, St. Louis, in 1975 and a master's degree in religious studies from Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, Texas, in 1984.

Sister Carol taught at Sacred Heart, Valley Park, Missouri; St. Michael, Shrewsbury, Missouri; Blessed Sacrament, Hannibal, Missouri; and St. Anthony, Effingham, Illinois. She was a principal at St. Gertrude, Krakow, Missouri; St. Joseph, East St. Louis, Illinois, and St. Martin, La Mesa, California.

After 20 years in Catholic education, she felt a call to respond to the poor. Following a sabbatical, Sister Carol began pastoral ministry with Native Americans. She ministered with the Pima Indians in Laveen, Arizona; the Papago Indians at St. Catherine Parish, Topowa, and Blessed Kateri Tekawitha Parish, Tucson, Arizona; and with the Native Americans on the Cheyenne Reservation in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. She ministered for 10 years among the Native Americans.

After a year of renewal in Mexico, Sister Carol returned to the Southwest to serve as the Director of Religious Education (DRE) at St. Helen, Eloy, Arizona; St. Anthony, Casa Grande, Arizona; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Indio, California; Sacred Heart Cathedral and the South Central Parishes, San Angelo, Texas. Then, she served as a DRE at St. Mary, Centralia, Illinois, for one year.

During the next 11 years, she ministered as the Director of Adult Formation at Blessed Sacrament, Tollison, Arizona; St. Thomas Aquinas, Avondale, Arizona;

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister Carol (Miriam
Gabriel) Markus*



St. Raphael and Our Lady of the Valley, Glendale, Arizona. Sister Carol spent 19 years in Arizona.

In 2015, Sister Carol returned to the Midwest. In her retirement years, she volunteered as an activity coordinator at the Cottages at Cathedral Plaza, Belleville, Illinois; was co-coordinator of the Parish School of Religion at the St. Augustine Campus, Belleville, and area coordinator of SSND Associates.

As her health failed, Sister Carol was placed on hospice. At the time of her death, she was at the home of her sister, Julie, in Aviston, Illinois. Her twin sister, Sister Joan, was at her bedside when God called her home on the morning of January 10, 2022. Sister Carol donated her body to St. Louis University School of Medicine.

A memorial Mass was celebrated on January 22, 2022, at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville, Illinois, with Monsignor John Myler as celebrant. On January 26, 2022, services were held at Theresa Center for the reading of her biography, sharing of memories and Memorial Mass. The celebrant was a cousin, Father Robert Bussen from the Diocese of Salt Lake City. Attending were her sisters: Sister Joan Markus, SSND; Sister Theresa Markus, SSND; Julie Stockmann and Ann (Joe) Munie; nieces, nephews, extended family members, classmates, friends, SSND sisters and associates. A luncheon was served to the guests in the Theresa Center auditorium. Sister Carol was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Richard.

Sister Carol was remembered as a kind, generous, faith-filled person. She graciously shared her talents with others and assisted wherever it was possible. Her family was very important to her in their support and encouragement of each other. In her ministry as a DRE, she was highly organized with great attention to detail. She had a vision of the church which included a comprehensive, ongoing faith formation for persons of all ages of life.

Sister Carol included in her autobiography a quotation that signified her ministry: "Whenever we enter another culture we should always remember that God was there first. We go to walk with the people on our journey to bring about the Reign of God wherever we are." In her many years of cross-cultural ministry, Sister Carol touched the hearts and minds of hundreds of children and adults as she journeyed with them to bring about the reign of God. May she now rest in peace in her new life with her God.

By Sister Carol Marie Willtt, SSND

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