



Birth
June 29, 1949

Baptism
July 10, 1949

Profession
January 1, 1970

Death
November 22, 2017

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 Christian Marie Ehrhardt

Sister Christian Marie's life as a School Sister of Notre Dame embodied the vision in You Are Sent: "We are educators in all that we are and do. We continually choose ways of living and serving that call to growth. Responding to varying needs, we engage in a diversity of ministries, specific services through which we work for the enablement of persons." (#23)

The fourth of seven children was born to Wilbur and Florence (Mast) Ehrhardt in Quincy, Illinois, on June 29, 1949. She was baptized on July 10, 1949, at St. Peter's Church, Quincy, and named Carol Wilfrieda. She grew up with three brothers and three sisters.

Carol attended St. Peter Elementary School and Notre Dame of Quincy, where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She enjoyed Girl Scouts and 4-H Club. In high school, Carol was president of the Notre Dame Chapter of the National Honor Society. During this time, she came to the realization that for her, the life of a teaching religious was the best way she could serve God and His people.

She entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis on August 24, 1967. Carol was received into the novitiate on July 27, 1968 and given the name Christian Marie. She professed first vows on January 1, 1970 and final vows on August 7, 1976.

She received a bachelor of arts degree in American Studies from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis in 1971.

Sister Christian Marie taught junior high school students for 14 years at St. Francis Solanus, Quincy, Illinois; Our Lady of Loretto, St. Louis; Sancta Isabel, Los Angeles; St. Aloysius, Tulare, California; Our Lady of Mercy, Merced, California, and St. Martin de Porres, Hazelwood, Missouri. She was a teacher's aide for several years at St. Philip, East St. Louis, Illinois, in their new computer lab. She then served as a pastoral minister at Immaculate Conception, Centreville, Illinois, for a year.

Following missionary preparation, Sister Christian Marie was missioned to Japan. In Kyoto, she was a member of the clerical staff at the Regional Office for three years and taught at Notre Dame Secondary School for five years. Returning to the United States in 1997, she taught at Immaculate Conception School in Dardenne, Missouri.

In 2001, Sister Christian Marie responded to an emerging call from people desiring to upgrade their basic English skills. She began her ministry of teaching English as a Second Language at the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois. Her students were primarily professors and students at the university and their children. When Skype was introduced, she used that technological tool to reach students around the world. She continued to reach out to adults and children in many countries, continuing the SSND mission of making one in our contemporary world.

In 2015, she was diagnosed with cancer. After a period of remission, the cancer returned in March 2017. Eventually, the treatments were no longer effective and she chose to go on hospice in October 2017. She came to the infirmary at Sancta Maria in Ripa in early November 2017. She died peacefully on November 22,

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister Christian Marie
Ehrhardt*

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

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2017, around 1:15 p.m., with family members and sisters keeping vigil.

A wake was held at Theresa Center on November 27, 2018. The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated the following morning with Rev. Robert Leibrecht as celebrant. Interment was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery. Family members, relatives, classmates, friends and colleagues were in attendance for the funeral services. She is survived by her sisters: Joyce Varner, Sister Wilmarie Ehrhart, OSB and Sue Ehrhardt and brothers: Mel Ehrhardt and Stephen Ehrhardt. She was preceded in death by her parents and her younger brother, Fred Ehrhardt.

Sister Christian Marie was remembered as a kind and caring person who was interested in people and various places. She was a cross-cultural bridge builder who mentored and tutored others, not only in language but also in life skills so they could more readily adapt to the American culture. She employed the latest technology to communicate with others in Japan, Korea, Germany, etc.

Among the people she spoke of with gratitude and admiration was her mother, Florence, who died in September 2016, a few months after celebrating her 100th birthday. She was also grateful to all the SSND teachers who had mentored her through the years, especially Sisters Elbert Oelkers, Oda Schmidle, Carleen Reck and Catherine Sienna Mossinghoff.

One of the highlights of her life, while engaged in graduate studies at St. Mary's University in San Antonio was studying biblical archeology for five weeks in the Holy Land.

Sister Christian Marie enjoyed living with people of diverse backgrounds, learning their cultures and especially trying recipes and savoring foods from various parts of the world. May she now rejoice in joining the vast multitude of diverse persons who have gone before her and continue to praise our God.