



## *In Loving Memory*

### Sister Diane Marie Turner

The oldest of three children was born to Cecilia (DeMange) and Walter Turner on July 9, 1940, in East St. Louis, Illinois. She was baptized on July 27, 1940, at St. Regis Church in East St. Louis, Illinois, and named Patricia Ann. A brother, Robert, and a sister, Diane, completed the Turner family.

Patricia began her education at Immaculate Conception School in Centerville, Illinois. When she was in the fifth grade, the family moved and she completed her elementary grades at St. Philip in East St. Louis, Illinois. Here, she met the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). She enrolled at St. Teresa Academy which was staffed by the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood from Ruma, Illinois. In addition to deciding to enter religious life, Patricia also was faced with the decision to choose between these two communities. With the help of her pastor, she chose to enter the SSND.

Patricia received the candidate's veil at her home parish on August 27, 1958, and came to Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, the following day. She was received into the novitiate on July 28, 1959, and given the name Diane Marie in honor of her sister. She pronounced first vows on July 29, 1960, and final vows on July 29, 1966.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in economics from the former Notre Dame College in 1962, Sister Diane Marie began her teaching career. She taught at St. Bernadette, St. Louis; St. Mary, Alton, Illinois; St. Philip, East St. Louis, Illinois; Notre Dame Elementary School and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Herrin, Illinois.

In 1977, she began her ministry as a director of religious education. She ministered at St. Vincent, Keokuk, Iowa; St. Bernard, Wood River, Illinois; St. Louis, Nokomis, Illinois; St. Barbara, Witt, Illinois; Our Lady of the Holy Spirit, Mt. Zion, Illinois. In 1990, she completed a master's degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University of Chicago.

In 1993, Sister Diane Marie spent a year as a driver for the sisters at Villa Gesu, the former SSND retirement home in St. Louis. The following year, she began serving as a parish associate in St. Boniface, Evansville, Illinois, and St. Pius V, Walsh, Illinois. After five years, Sister Diane Marie attended Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, and received a certificate in spiritual direction.

From 2000 to 2019, she served as a spiritual director and the parish life coordinator at St. Felicitas Parish in Beaver Prairie, Illinois. She moved to Belleville, Illinois, in 2019, and to Veronica House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri, in November 2021. As her health declined, she was transferred to Anna House in January 2022. She passed away peacefully in the early afternoon of April 7, 2022, as family members and a SSND friend were praying at her bedside.

A prayer service was held at The Sarah Community on April 12, 2022. The funeral services were held at Theresa Center the following morning: reading of biography, sharing of memories and Mass of Christian Burial with Reverend

*continued*

Birth  
July 9, 1940

Baptism  
July 27, 1940

Profession  
July 29, 1960

Death  
April 7, 2022

Burial  
Sancta Maria in Ripa  
Cemetery, St. Louis

*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 Diane Marie Turner*



John Eaton, OFM, as celebrant. Family members, classmates, parishioners from Beaver Prairie, friends and SSND were in attendance. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery. A luncheon was served to the guests in Theresa Center auditorium. Sister Diane Marie is survived by her brother, Robert, and her sister, Diane Briesacher of Belleville, Illinois, and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Her many years as pastoral associate and parish life coordinator enabled Sister Diane Marie to become part of people's lives during important times for them, at baptisms, confirmations, weddings, anniversaries, funerals, etc. It also provided her a means to reach out to others at various workshop conferences and retreat centers and in retirement homes and hospitals.

In these last years, Sister Diane Marie became interested in making jewelry and designing mandalas. This became a very significant hobby for her as she struggled with various health issues. May she now be embraced in God's peace as she enters eternal life.

*By Sister Carol Marie Willt, SSND*

To make a memorial gift,  
please visit our secure  
online donation page  
[www.ssndcentralpacific.org/donate](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/donate)



School Sisters  
of Notre Dame  
*Central Pacific Province*

Transforming the world  
through education