



Birth
June 4, 1928

Baptism
June 9, 1928

Profession
August 3, 1949

Death
March 16, 2019

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 Eleanor Francis Frankenberg

Sister Eleanor Francis Frankenberg, 90, died Saturday, March 16, 2019, at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis. She was the third of six children born to Eleanor (Kuenzel) and Frank Frankenberg in Marthasville, Missouri. She was baptized at St. Vincent's Church, Dutzow, Missouri, and given the name Coletine Mary after one of her SSND aunts. She grew up on a farm near Dutzow with her parents, three brothers and two sisters.

Coletine attended St. Vincent's School staffed by the Most Precious Blood Sisters from O'Fallon, Missouri. Since they lived five miles from school, Coletine and her siblings were taken to school in a horse-drawn, closed buggy. On cold days, her father would give the children heated bricks to keep their feet warm. Sometimes in the spring, the extra horse was needed on the farm, so the children were taken to school in the family car. They would walk home, finding shortcuts through the woods, fields and along the railroad tracks.

When Coletine was seven years old, her mother died on February 2, 1936. Due to icy roads, Coletine was not able to attend the funeral. The following summer, their house burned down, so the children, ranging in age from 1 ½ to 11 years, stayed with relatives. A week before school started in September, they moved into a newly- built home.

After graduating from grade school, Coletine attended St. Francis Borgia High School in Washington, Missouri, for a semester. She worked at home until she was sixteen and then was employed by the KDK Shoe Factory in Washington for two years. One day after work, she made a visit to St. Francis Borgia Church. While there, she was inspired to go across the street to the SSND convent and ask if she could join them. The sisters had been praying for someone to enter the community and saw Coletine as an answer to their prayers. The sisters helped her to prepare, and she entered the candidature at Ripa the following week on August 28, 1946. During her candidature years, she attended Notre Dame High School and completed her high school courses. She was received into the novitiate on August 2, 1948, and given the name M. Eleanor Francis after her parents. She professed first vows on August 3, 1949, and final vows on August 3, 1955.

Sister Eleanor Francis received a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis in 1961 and a Master of Arts degree in education from St. Louis University, St. Louis in 1968.

Sister Eleanor Francis taught elementary children for 38 years at St. Francis Solanus, Quincy, Illinois; St. Francis, Aviston, Illinois; St. Francis of Assisi, Teutopolis, Illinois; Santa Isabel, Los Angeles; St. Rita, San Diego; St. Joseph, Cairo, Illinois; and Epiphany, Venice, Florida. During her years in California, she volunteered during the summer months to teach the students at Tierra del Sol, Sunland, California. She was a staff member of the maintenance/ housekeeping department at Villa Gesu, St. Louis for two years.

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister Eleanor Francis
Frankenberg*



Sister Eleanor Francis was a pastoral minister at St. Raphael, Englewood, Florida, for six years. She was an English as a second language teacher (ESL) for migrant women in Immokalee, Florida, for nine years. She assisted in the closing of Notre Dame Hall, St. Louis and ministered in pastoral care at Fairfield Manor, St. Louis. When she moved to Sancta Maria in Ripa in 2007, she volunteered in the archives and other areas. She was in charge of the library at Sancta Maria in Ripa and often displayed new books or books relevant to what was happening in the community, church or world.

Experiencing heart difficulties, she requested to be put on hospice in early March 2019. She passed away peacefully around 3:00 a.m. on March 16, 2019, with sisters keeping vigil with her. She donated her body to St. Louis University School of Medicine. Sister Eleanor Francis would have celebrated her 70th Jubilee of religious profession this summer.

A memorial Mass was celebrated on March 23, 2019, at Theresa Center with Rev. Clyde Grogan as presider. Many family members, her local community member Sister Lorraine Soukup, classmates, friends and SSNDs attended the funeral service. She is survived by two sisters, Viola Struckhoff and Bernice Kemner, both of Augusta, Missouri. She was preceded in death by her parents and her three brothers Frank, Robert and Raymond.

Sister Eleanor Francis taught primary children during most of her years as an elementary educator. She prepared many for the reception of the sacraments and gave them a firm foundation for their succeeding years of formal education. As an ESL tutor in the at-home literacy program "School on Wheels," she assisted many migrant women in acquiring better English skills, which enabled them to take better care of themselves and their families. She was very exact and had an eye for detail, which made her an asset while volunteering in the St. Louis province archives and overseeing the Sancta Maria in Ripa library. Like her patron, St. Francis of Assisi, she delighted in God's creation. She was greatly loved by her family as evidenced by their presence at her memorial service. As she completes her journey of 90 plus years, may she receive the fullness of eternal life in the loving embrace of her God.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND

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