



## *In Loving Memory*

### Sister Harriet Stellern

The first of six children was born to Louise (Schulte) and Harry Patrick Stellern on September 6, 1934 in Fort Madison, Iowa. She was baptized on September 9, 1934 at St. Mary Church, Fort Madison, and given the name Harriet Louise. Her family would include a sister and four brothers. The Stellern family lived on a dairy farm on the outskirts of the city and all were involved in producing the crops and caring for the animals.

Harriet attended St. Mary's Grade School and Catholic Central High School where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She always felt called to religious life. Harriet entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis, on September 8, 1952, two days after her 18th birthday. She was received into the novitiate on August 1, 1953, and given the name, Marie Patrick. She pronounced first vows on August 2, 1954, and final vows on August 2, 1960.

She was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1962 and a Masters of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, in 1969.

After profession, she taught elementary children for three years at Sacred Heart, Valley Park, Missouri. The remainder of her teaching career was spent in secondary schools. She taught math and science at Immaculata High School, Marrero, Louisiana; Academy of Notre Dame, Belleville, Illinois; and Notre Dame High School, Quincy, Illinois. She was a science teacher and one of five assistant principals at Rosary High School, St. Louis.

In 1984, Sister Harriet was missioned to Los Angeles. For 33 years, she ministered at Bishop Conaty/Our Lady of Loretto High School. During these years, Sister Harriet was an assistant principal, registrar, biology teacher and a member of the support staff.

Sister Harriet is remembered as a person with lots of energy, totally dedicated to education and her students. She was an excellent science teacher and a competent administrator. A quiet, joyful and loving individual, she was known for her smile and hugs readily given to family and friends. She deeply appreciated God's creation and enjoyed the sand and beaches of California. In community, she was eager to serve others and many were recipients of her hospitality and generosity. She was faithful to the California Associates and rarely missed a meeting.

Sister Harriet was committed to Tierra del Sol, a school/training center for mentally challenged adults. She was a member of the Board and always volunteered for their annual spaghetti dinner. Although she spent half of her religious life ministering in Los Angeles, she never forgot her Midwestern roots and was deeply devoted to her family. In 2017, she began to experience some memory challenges and returned to the Midwest. She performed volunteer

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Birth  
September 6, 1934

Baptism  
September 9, 1934

Profession  
August 2, 1954

Death  
April 18, 2020

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

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services at Sancta Maria in Ripa. In January 2020, she was missioned to Veronica House, The Sarah Community, in Bridgeton, Missouri, and in early April 2020 to Elizabeth House. She passed away peacefully at Elizabeth House around 5:45 a.m. on April 18, 2020.

Sister Harriet expressed her desire to donate her body to St. Louis University School of Medicine. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, donations were not accepted at this time. She was buried in the cemetery at Sancta Maria in Ripa on April 22, 2020, a beautiful spring morning. Sisters formed an honor guard along the front drive and sang Regina Coeli as the hearse brought the body to the cemetery. At the cemetery, there was a short prayer service, blessing of the casket and interment. A niece and her husband represented the family. A memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later date.

Sister Harriet was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Robert. She is survived by her sister, Sally Calvin of Charleston, South Carolina, and three brothers: Tom (Joan) of Fort Madison, Iowa; Pat (Barb) of Danville, Iowa and John (Olga) of Chicago; nieces, nephews and friends. May she rejoice with her Risen Savior as she now enters into eternal life.

*By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND*

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