



In Loving Memory

Sister Joan (Raymond Ann) Bartosh

Sister Joan Bartosh completed her life's journey at 8:09 p.m. on March 27, 2023, at Windermere, Shakopee, Minnesota. Two sisters were present with her when she died.

Birth
November 22, 1944

Baptism
December 1, 1944

Profession
July 17, 1965

Death
March 27, 2023

Burial
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Cemetery

*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

On November 22, 1944, the Raymond and Margaret Bartosh family of Heron Lake, Minnesota, welcomed their second daughter, Joan Margaret. She was baptized at Sacred Heart Church in Heron Lake, and later wrote, "In many ways my childhood was a privileged one. Many of my memories of growing up on the Bartosh family farm continue to enrich my life. They give meaning and encourage a steadfastness to values that were first planted in that environment." Joan treasured living on the farm, caring for animals and helping with the various indoor and outdoor chores. Being part of the farm's natural environment with its trees, creek, pastureland and wildlife enabled her "to learn of God and find Him so inviting that I willed to spend the rest of my life for Him alone."

Joan enrolled in first grade at Sacred Heart School, Heron Lake, in September 1950. Her teachers were School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). In an autobiography she comments on each year of grade school and the impact that sisters had on her life. This led her to strongly consider becoming a sister herself. Following graduation from Heron Lake High School, Heron Lake, in 1962, Joan spent a year at home, providing childcare for a neighboring family and working as a bookkeeper and secretary at the local bank.

In August 1963, Joan finalized her decision to enter the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Mankato, Minnesota, and on September 1, she became an SSND postulant. After spending her postulancy year taking college classes and learning about religious life, Joan was received into the novitiate in July 1964, and given the name Sister Raymond Ann. She later returned to her baptismal name. She professed first vows in 1965, and had hoped to spend the next year taking college classes at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, working toward a degree in education. However, because of a need, she was called to SS. Peter & Paul School, New Hradec, North Dakota, to assist during the second semester. For the next nineteen years, Sister Joan taught primary and intermediate grades at these Minnesota Catholic schools: St. Andrew, St. Paul (1966-67); St. Matthew, St. Paul (1967-74); St. Mary, Worthington (1974-76); St. Francis Xavier, Sartell (1976-83); and St. Mary, Madelia (1983-86). She earned a BA degree in education from Mount Mary College (now University) in 1974 and a masters in pastoral studies from Loyola University, Chicago, in 1994.

Following a sabbatical year, Sister Joan turned her interest to pastoral ministry in 1987, and served at St. Patrick Parish in Estherville, Iowa, for 12 years. She was involved in a wide range of activities including Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, marriage and baptism preparation, Care Committee, funeral liturgy preparation and spiritual care for the elderly, homebound and hospitalized. Her expertise extended beyond the parish level as she helped with adult and multigenerational retreats for the Sioux City Diocese, Iowa. She also

continued

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Ann) Bartosh*



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facilitated retreats for adults with disabilities and wrote articles for the diocesan newspaper about ministry to those with disabilities. Other experiences included leading marriage enrichment opportunities in partnership with couples from St. Patrick, and organizing a visit to Guatemala, where they visited Jesus Nipalican Parish, located about fourteen miles from Guatemala City. Reflecting on her time at St. Patrick, she said, “My experience has always been that all of life, both present and past, prepares me for the future, and this is certainly how I feel about my present involvement in ministry at St. Patrick. As I preside at prayer opportunities or journey with couples who are preparing for a lifelong commitment, I am hopeful that my presence encourages people to be alert to the way God is with them in whatever situations they experience.”

In 1999-2000, Sister Joan ministered at Sacred Heart Parish, Waseca, Minnesota, and then enrolled in the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program through Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. In the fall of 2001, she accepted a position as a staff chaplain for the Mayo Clinic, another ministry that she found very fulfilling. Sister Joan served as a chaplain until 2014, when she transitioned into a hospice volunteer for Mayo. Comments from colleagues at this time reflected her impact: “Thank you for listening to your call, for your gentle presence,” and “Blessings as you continue in the footsteps of your founder to be a witness in courage and love.”

Sister Joan concluded her autobiography, “I might end the telling of my journey with the word ‘harmony.’ Harmony has been a high priority because it offers a way of maintaining balance, another way to nurture my spirit. Being creative is a significant way for me to nurture that harmony. Throughout the years, creativity has evolved around embroidery, crocheting, needlepoint, tatting, rubber stamping greeting cards and basket weaving. Nature offers the invitation to return to harmony through walking, biking and flower and vegetable gardening.” She commented, too, on the closeness among her family members and how she looked forward to family gatherings.

Her cancer diagnosis was met with an upbeat spirit, a desire to survive and then finally acceptance. She often greeted people with a determined “thumbs-up” gesture to signify how she felt. Throughout her life she lived the theme of her funeral liturgy, “God’s love is everlasting.”

The funeral Mass for Sister Joan was held April 4, in the Windermere Chapel, Shakopee, Minnesota, with Father Joe Fogal as presider. Visitation and sharing of memories preceded the liturgy. Burial in the Our Lady of Good Counsel cemetery in Mankato followed. She is survived by her sisters, Lorraine (Clem) McCoy and Carol (Tom) Henkel; her brother Dale (Marietta); her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND associates. She was preceded in death by her parents Raymond and Margaret (Haberman) Bartosh.

By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND