



**Birth**  
June 14, 1943

**Baptism**  
June 27, 1943

**Profession**  
August 2, 1963

**Death**  
December 12, 2018

**Burial**  
Sancta Maria in Ripa  
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

## *In Loving Memory*

### Sister Joann Bauer

Sister Joann Bauer, formerly known as Paul Miriam, 75, died on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis. She was the fifth of ten children born to Henrietta (Schaefer) and Alphonse Bauer in Belleville, Illinois. She was baptized at St. Peter Cathedral in Belleville, on June 27, 1943, and named Joann Mary.

Joann attended St. Peter Cathedral Grade School and the Academy of Notre Dame in Belleville, Illinois, where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. By the end of her sophomore year, she was sure of her call to become a sister but did not tell her parents until two months before graduation. They were surprised but graciously gave consent for her entrance. An older sister, Virginia (Sister Robert Mary) had become a Franciscan Sister.

Joann received the candidate's veil at St. Peter Cathedral on August 23, 1961. She was received into the novitiate on August 1, 1962, and given the name Paul Miriam. She professed her first vows on August 2, 1963, and final vows on August 2, 1968.

Sister Joann received a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1965, and a Master of Education in mathematics from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois, in 1973.

Sister Joann taught elementary children at St. Peter Grade School, Jefferson City, Missouri, and St. Michael, Shrewsbury, Missouri. She taught math and science for 11 years at St. Anthony High School, Effingham, Illinois; Aquinas High School, Fort Madison, Iowa; and Bishop Conaty High School, Los Angeles. She was principal for 14 years at St. Anthony High School, Effingham, Illinois; Bishop Conaty High School, Los Angeles; and the consolidated Bishop Conaty/Our Lady of Loretto High School, Los Angeles.

After a sabbatical, Sister Joann taught at Dolores Alternative School, Monterey Park, California, for a year. Following a year of volunteer service at the motherhouse in St. Louis, she returned to California and taught children with special needs at Soledad Enrichment Action in Los Angeles. For 12 years, she served at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) in a program to keep teenage mothers and fathers in school until they received their high school diplomas. In 2003, she was chosen as Teacher of the Year by LACOE's Division of Alternative Education. She also taught an independent study program for the Division of Alternative Education in Downey, California.

In 2011, she returned to the St. Louis area. After several months of tutoring, she taught part-time at Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville, Illinois, and worked part-time in the finance office at Sancta Maria in Ripa. A return of cancer resulted in her resignation from the finance office in May 2018.

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Joann Bauer*



Sister Joann chose not to undergo chemotherapy but to live a quality life until God called her home. She went home to her God early on the morning of December 12, 2018 in the infirmary at Ripa with family members and SSNDs praying with her. Sister Joann chose to have a natural (green) burial – the first such burial at Ripa – which took place in the afternoon of December 12. It seemed so appropriate that she would enter into her new life on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe after she spent so many years with hispanics in California.

A memorial Mass was celebrated at Theresa Center on January 12, 2019, with Rev. Jim Dougherty as presider. A reflection was delivered by Sister Patricia Bauer, SSND. Due to a rare, major snowstorm that blanketed the St. Louis metro area, her immediate family members were unable to attend the memorial Mass. However, her aunt, Sister Joan Schaefer, SSND, of Chatawa, Mississippi, represented the family. SSNDs, classmates and friends were present to celebrate her life.

Sister Joann is survived by three sisters: Jane (George) York of Bellville, Illinois; Catherine (James) Rakowski of Bremen, Indiana; Mary Beth (Morris) Clement of Gurnee, Illinois; and four brothers: Robert (Margaret) Bauer of Norman, Oklahoma; Paul Bauer of Greenwood Village, Colorado; Stephen (Cynthia) Bauer of Aurora, Illinois; and Gerard (Donna) Bauer of Decatur, Illinois. She is also survived by her aunt Sister Joan Schaefer, SSND, and several nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents and her sisters Margaret Mary Carlson and Sister Virginia Bauer, OSF.

Sister Joann was a gentle, compassionate person who loved to teach and to help her students realize their potential. She was deeply devoted to her family and delighted in sharing celebrations and family gatherings. She was a good community member and had a great love and reverence for all of God's creation. She was an active member of the Earthy SSNDs who studied and sought to implement actions for the care of creation. During these last months, she was a witness to a deep inner courage and strength as she lived her life to the fullest. May Sister Joann now be embraced by her Loving Creator as she returns home to the God she served so faithfully.

*By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND*

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