



Birth
October 20, 1933

Baptism
October 22, 1933

Profession
August 3, 1957

Death
February 16, 2023

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 Joyce Ann (M. John de Deo) Berkel

Sister Joyce Ann (formerly, M. John de Deo) Berkel, 89, died peacefully at Anna House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri, in the afternoon of February 16, 2023.

The second of four daughters, she was born to Adelaide (Haudrich) and John Berkel on October 20, 1933, in Belleville, Illinois. She was baptized at St. Peter's Cathedral on October 22, 1933, and named Joyce Ann Arlene.

Joyce attended St. Peter's Cathedral Grade School and the Academy of Notre Dame. During these twelve years of education, she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). Following graduation from high school, Joyce was employed as secretary and bookkeeper at the Record Printing and Advertising Company in Belleville, for one year. She then worked in civil service as a clerk-stenographer at Scott Air Force Base in Belleville, for three years.

During these years, Joyce felt a call to enter religious life and after praying many novenas to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, she was given the grace to make her decision. She received the candidate's bonnet at St. Mary's Parish in Belleville, on August 31, 1955. She was received into the novitiate on August 1, 1956, and given the name M. John de Deo in honor of her father. She professed first vows on August 3, 1957, and final vows on August 3, 1963. She later returned to her baptismal name.

In 1960, Sister Joyce Ann earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, Missouri. She earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana in 1969.

For 20 years, Sister Joyce Ann ministered in secondary education. She taught at Notre Dame High School in Cape Girardeau, Missouri for one year. She returned to Belleville and taught at the Academy of Notre Dame (1959-1969). She was appointed the administrative assistant at the Academy in Belleville (1969-1971) prior to serving as principal at Notre Dame High School in St. Louis, Missouri (1971-1978). As principal, she led the faculty, staff and students in the transition from modular scheduling to the implementation of the current individualized instruction curriculum.

In 1978, Sister Joyce Ann was called to serve as secretary to the General Superior, Sister Mary Margaret Johanning, at the Generalate in Rome, Italy. During her years in Rome, she had the opportunity to travel to and to meet her SSND sisters in the various provinces of the Congregation throughout the world. She was present for the beatification of the SSND foundress, Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, in 1985.

Returning to the Midwest in 1988, Sister Joyce Ann spent a short time in community service at Villa Gesu, St. Louis, Missouri. She then served as the

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Joyce Ann (M. John de Deo) Berkel



secretary to the Bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois. In 1998, she became secretary to the Provincial Leadership of the former St. Louis Province. She retired from her secretarial duties in 2007, but continued to do volunteer service in various ways at Sancta Maria in Ripa and in the parish at Shiloh, Illinois. She moved to Sancta Maria in Ripa in 2021. As her health needs increased, she was missioned to The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri in April 2022. She was placed on hospice and died peacefully around 2:35 p.m. on February 16, 2023, at Anna House.

On February 20, 2023, a prayer service was held at The Sarah Community. The Mass of Christian Burial with Rev. Clyde Grogan as presider was celebrated the following morning in the Theresa Center chapel. Sister Joanne Hanrahan, SSND, former St. Louis Provincial, shared a reflection on the life and ministry of Sister Joyce Ann. Visitation, reading of her biography and the sharing of memories preceded the funeral liturgy. Relatives, friends, colleagues, SSNDs and associates were in attendance. Interment was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery. A luncheon followed for guests in Theresa Center auditorium.

Sister Joyce Ann was preceded in death by her parents and her three sisters, Geraldine Volpe, Karen Harbaugh, and Janice Behrman. She is survived by her brother-in-law, Donald Harbaugh; nieces; nephews; relatives; longtime friend and community member, Sister Patricia Delaney, SSND; classmates; SSNDs and associates.

Sister Joyce Ann was an extremely competent teacher, wise administrator and professional secretary. She was very willing to assist others and responded to requests in a timely manner. She was remembered as a kind, patient, loving and generous person with a calm personality. She had a great love for the Congregation which was deepened by her time spent in Rome. She was a member of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois and served as secretary of the board for several years. Over the years, Sister Joyce Ann endured many skin surgeries but always had a cheerful attitude. May she now rejoice as she is embraced by her loving God and is reunited with family members and friends who have gone before her.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND

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