



In Loving Memory

Sister Laurette Haberberger

On August 20, 1940, the second of 11 children was born to Agnes (Straatman) and Lawrence Haberberger in Granite City, Illinois. She was baptized at St. Joseph's Church on August 25, 1940, and named Beverly Marie. When she was eight-months-old, the family moved to Washington, Missouri. The Haberberger family increased to a total of six boys and five girls.

Beverly attended St. Francis Borgia School where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. After her freshman year in high school, she was able to realize a childhood dream of becoming a sister. She entered the Aspiranture at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, to complete her high school education.

Beverly received the candidate's veil on August 27, 1958, in her home parish in Washington, Missouri, and came to Ripa the following day. She was received into the novitiate on July 28, 1959, and given the name, Mary Laurette. Profession of first vows was on July 29, 1960, and final vows on July 29, 1966.

Sister Laurette was awarded a bachelor's degree in Spanish from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1962 and a master's degree in elementary education from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois, in 1973.

Sister Laurette ministered for 30 years in elementary education. She taught at St. William and St. Martin of Tours, St. Louis; St. Joseph, East St. Louis, Illinois; Anton Martin Siomsek Elementary School in Etiwanda, California; St. Hilary, Pico Rivera, California. She was administrator at Instituto Notre Dame, El Progreso, Honduras; Santa Isabel, Los Angeles, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Indio, California.

Returning to the Midwest from California, Sister Laurette was an administrative assistant for 10 years at St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Crestwood, Missouri; St. Raphael, St. Louis, and Queen of Peace, Belleville, Illinois. She then became a driver for The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri, and did volunteer service at various places in the St. Louis area.

In 2014, Sister Laurette was diagnosed with cancer. Following a recurrence of cancer, she was missioned to Veronica House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, in 2016. In March 2020, she was transferred to Anna House. She passed away peacefully at Anna House around 8:10 a.m. on April 29, 2020.

Sister Laurette was buried at Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery, St. Louis, on May 5, 2020. A prayer service attended by family members, several classmates and sisters was held at the cemetery prior to interment. A memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later date.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers: Kenneth and Wayne. She is survived by four sisters: Audrey (Lambert) Holtmeyer, Norma

Birth
August 20, 1940

Baptism
August 25, 1940

Profession
July 29, 1960

Death
April 29, 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

continued

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Jean (Roger) Hill, Marlene Mitchell and Kathleen Reed; and four brothers: Maurice, Larry (Kathy), Garry (Jane) and Kevin (Beverly).

Sister Laurette was fluent in Spanish and used this gift to serve others in Honduras and California. In Honduras, she was a teacher for several summers in the catechetical program preparing children for the Sacraments. She returned to serve as administrator in the “colegio” for four years. In California, she used her gift of Spanish to teach the immigrant Hispanic children, to empower her staff and to establish a good rapport with the parents. Through her leadership, Sister Laurette set a Catholic educational direction for them.

Her experience as a school administrator was invaluable when she ministered as an administrative assistant/school secretary. She displayed respect for her colleagues, students and their parents. Additional courses in technology enabled her to keep accurate student records. She was able to offer advice and direction to students and staff members. Her bilingual skills also assisted in facilitating transitions for those whose primary language was Spanish.

One of her volunteer services was with the Salvation Army. She was acknowledged for giving more than 1278 hours of volunteer service at their Divisional Headquarters in St. Louis, doing data entry and as coordinator of volunteers. She was also skilled in needlework and assisted in making quilts for the former St. Louis Province Quilt-a-Month drawings. Sister Laurette would have celebrated her Diamond (60th) Jubilee this summer. May she now rejoice in her and eternal life, free of pain, as she receives the reward for her years of faithful service to God’s people.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND

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