



Birth
May 8, 1931

Baptism
May 9, 1931

Profession
August 1, 1952

Death
January 12, 2022

Burial
Sancta Maria in Ripa
Cemetery, St. Louis

*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 Mary Edith Juergensmeyer

On the morning of May 8, 1931, the youngest of four children was born to Louise (Schaefer) and Conrad Juergensmeyer in their family home near Koeltztown, Missouri. She was baptized the following day at St. Boniface Church and named Marie Elizabeth. An older sister and two older brothers made up the family. Her pre-school days were spent on the 360-acre farm playing and helping with the farm chores. Prayer and faith were very evident in the family's daily routine.

Marie attended St. Boniface School, where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). Shortly after her eighth-grade graduation, she and a friend visited Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, and everyone thought she would attend the aspiranture. However, she did not wish to go. Instead, she attended high school in Argyle, Missouri, where there were two grades and 16 students in the school. At the end of that year, the county closed the school because it was too expensive for such a small group. Then, she attended school in Freeburg, Missouri, where SSND were teaching. During the next few months, Marie became more aware of her call to religious life. Therefore, she discontinued her education at Freeburg High School and entered the aspiranture in Sancta Maria in Ripa as a sophomore on November 1, 1946.

Marie entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa on August 31, 1949. After a year of college courses, she was missioned to Aviston, Illinois, to teach. She was received into the novitiate on July 30, 1951, and given the name Mary Edith. She pronounced her first vows on August 1, 1952, and final vows on August 1, 1958.

Sister Edith earned a bachelor's degree in education from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1957, and a master's degree in elementary education from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois, in 1973. Sister Edith was a primary teacher at Sacred Heart, Morrilton, Arkansas, and St. Mary, Fort Madison, Iowa. During her second year at Fort Madison, she was called home because her father was critically injured as a result of a farm accident. She arrived home a few hours before he died.

In 1960, a summer of service at Villa Gesu, the retirement home for the former St. Louis Province, resulted in Sister Edith's staying at Villa Gesu to assist in supervising the maintenance of the facility, in gardening and helping out wherever she was needed. After four years, she returned to the classroom.

For the next 24 years, she taught at St. Paul, Highland, Illinois; St. Peter Grade School, Jefferson City, Missouri; Immaculate Conception, Loose Creek, Missouri and Sacred Heart, Rich Fountain, Missouri. Following a four-month sabbatical at the former St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Mississippi, she spent the remainder of that year writing a children's version of the daily Mass and working with the pastoral minister at St. Michael, Russellville, Missouri.

The following year, she combined a part-time position in pastoral ministry at Rich Fountain and a weekend position ministering to abused women at the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center in Jefferson City, Missouri. After five years,

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister Mary Edith
Juergensmeyer*



she again ministered at St. Peter, Jefferson City, Missouri, but this time as the director of religious education and later doing volunteer service within the parish. She visited the nursing homes and shut-ins to care for their sacramental needs.

In 2012, she moved to Immaculate Conception in Loose Creek, Missouri, and continued to do volunteer service until 2015, when she was missioned to Veronica House, The Sarah Community in Bridgton, Missouri. She was transferred to Anna House in January 2017. Sister Edith died peacefully in the early afternoon of January 12, 2022, at Anna House.

Funeral services were held in the Theresa Center chapel on January 21, 2022. The services included the reading of her biography, sharing of memories and the celebration of the Mass of Resurrection with Rev. Ralph Parthie, OFM, as celebrant. In attendance were family members, classmates, sisters and friends from the Jefferson City area, SSND and associates. The burial took place in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery. A luncheon was served to the guests in the Theresa Center auditorium. Sister Edith was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers, Norbert and Felix, and her sister, Florence Kellenberger.

Sister Edith taught children in all the elementary grades and prepared children and adults for the reception of the Sacraments. Her family was very important to her and she was very devoted to them. She was a gracious, kind and generous person and a delightful community member. She was an excellent cook, baker and seamstress. She willingly shared her many gifts and talents with others. Sister Edith enjoyed gardening, playing cards, working on crossword puzzles and making various craft projects. She would have celebrated 70 years of religious profession this summer. May she now be blessed in her new life with her God and her family members who have preceded her into eternal life.

By Sister Carol Marie Willdt, SSND

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