



In Loving Memory

Sister Marie Chaminade Zimmerle

The third of four children was born on June 24, 1927, to Teresa (Hansmann) and Charles Zimmerle in St. Louis, Missouri. She was baptized at Sts. Peter and Paul Church on July 10, 1927, and named Teresa Elizabeth. During her youth, she was often called Betty or Elizabeth. She had two sisters and one brother.

Betty (Elizabeth) attended kindergarten at St. Agnes School and first grade at Sts. Peter and Paul. She completed her elementary education at St. John the Baptist School and then enrolled at Notre Dame High School, where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). Inspired by her teachers, she asked permission to enter the convent. Her mother was overjoyed, as this was an answer to her prayers that a religious vocation would be in the family.

Betty entered the candidature on August 29, 1945. She spent the next two years attending the former Notre Dame Junior College at Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis. She was received into the novitiate on July 28, 1947, and given the name Marie Chaminade. She professed first vows on July 29, 1948, and final vows on July 29, 1954.

Her first assignment was at Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Louis, where she taught seventh grade for two years. Then, she was missioned to St. Gregory, Tyler, Texas, for one year. Sister Marie Chaminade was one of the pioneers who opened St. Rita's School in San Diego, California. After one year, she was transferred to Holy Angels, East St. Louis, Illinois. Nine years later, she was missioned to St. Martin of Tours, Washington Park, Illinois.

Sister Marie Chaminade earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1956, and a master's degree in special education from St. Louis University in 1966.

In 1963, Sister Marie Chaminade pioneered a special education class at St. Francis School, Aviston, Illinois. She remained here for five years, during which time a second class was added. The next twelve years were spent teaching at St. Joseph Vocational School, St. Louis. Then, she worked in child care at St. Mary's Special School, St. Louis, teaching in the school and serving as the food coordinator for five years.

Following a sabbatical and a semester of community service at Villa Gesu, the former retirement home for the SSND in St. Louis, she ministered as a house parent for developmentally disabled women at Sunnyhill in Dittmer, Missouri, for 13 years.

Reflecting on her years at Sunnyhill, Sister Marie Chaminade said, "Our job is to assist these women to reach their potential. They come to us when parents and family feel that they can no longer care for this young adult. We offer them a home and the opportunity to grow."

Returning to Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, Sister Marie Chaminade was a driver for 10 years. She also served in hospitality and various volunteer roles

continued

Birth
June 24, 1927

Baptism
July 10, 1927

Profession
July 29, 1948

Death
December 13, 2021

Burial
Donated body to St. Louis
Univeristy School of Medicine

*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 Marie Chaminade
Zimmerle*



until her health needs required that she be missioned to Veronica House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri, in August 2017. In 2018, she celebrated the seventieth anniversary of her religious profession. In April 2019, she was transferred to Anna House. She died peacefully in the early morning of December 13, 2021, at Anna House. She chose to donate her body to St. Louis University School of Medicine.

The reading of her biography and sharing of memories preceded a memorial Mass, which was celebrated at Theresa Center on December 22, 2021, with Rev. Ralph Parthie, OFM, as presider. Family members, colleagues, former students and SSND attended the funeral service. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Carl, and her sisters, Lorraine Wilson and Marcella Werner. She is survived by nieces, nephews and cousins.

Sister Marie Chaminade enjoyed playing cards and computer games, working jig-saw puzzles and riding her bike. Her fun-loving spirit endeared her to the many special needs children and adults who she served so faithfully for 35 years. Her bubbly disposition brought hope and peace to those she contacted. She was a delightful community member. Her kind, gentle and compassionate heart was an example to those she mentored or with whom she ministered. May she now rest in her God who cherishes the “little ones” of this world.

By Sister Carol Marie Willits, SSND

To make a memorial gift,
please visit our secure
online donation page
www.ssndcentralpacific.org/donate



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world
through education