



**Birth**  
February 7, 1931

**Baptism**  
February, 1931

**Profession**  
July 29, 1950

**Death**  
July 23, 2019

**Burial**  
Chatawa Cemetery  
Chatawa, Mississippi

*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 Christine Hippler

Sister Marie Christine was born Rita Hippler on February 7, 1931, in New Orleans. She was the youngest of three daughters of Joseph and Christine (Wursteisen) Hippler. She had an older and a younger brother.

Rita grew up in Redemptorist Parish, in the area of New Orleans called, "The Irish Channel." Throughout her lifetime, she cherished New Orleans and would always return for important events. Everyone close to Sister Christine knew she had two great devotions - to the New Orleans Saints and to Blessed Francis Seelos the Redemptorist, who died serving yellow fever victims in New Orleans.

When Sister Christine was only nine years old, she lost her mother. After Mrs. Hippler's untimely death, Mr. Hippler kept the five children together with him. By the time Sister Christine was in High School, most of the children were working. She remembered, "My high school days were happy, not only in school, but at home as well. Besides studying, I kept house for my father and sisters, Shirley and Mae and my brothers, Jerry and Joseph. But I enjoyed it all." She also remembered her First Communion was one of the happiest days of her life.

Sister Christine had wanted to be a sister ever since first grade. She was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) and had two aunts that were SSND, so naturally, she felt a calling to the congregation.

Sister Christine was part of a group of six young women from one parish who entered the candidature of the congregation at one time. After they graduated from Redemptorist High School in 1947, the six women received the candidate bonnets in the school's chapel. Besides Sister Christine, the other women who became her friends were later known as: Sister Lester deBlanc, Sister Dot Maniscalco, Sister Pat Gautreau, Sister Helen Ann Well, and Sister Joyce desJardin.

The six women continued their education at Notre Dame College in St. Louis and were received into the congregation where Rita was given her mother's name, Christine. She professed her vows in 1950.

She became a quiet, effective educator of youth in middle and upper grades in St. Louis, then in New Orleans at St. Gabriel School and Sacred Heart of Jesus School. Later, she taught in Marrero, Louisiana, at Immaculate Conception and Visitation schools, and in Brookhaven, Mississippi.

Sister Christine joined the staff of Redeemer High School in New Orleans in 1982. Her principal there, Sister Margaret Mary Friesenhahn recalls, "Sister Christine was a real asset to the school in her accurate record keeping, her many quiet, behind the scenes tasks and in her service to the students." Sister Christine was on the staff at Redeemer until Hurricane Katrina caused the closing of the school in 2005.

*continued*

# *In Loving Memory*

*Sister Marie Christine  
Hippler*

In retirement, Sister Christine took care of her sister, Mae Leaveau, who was a patient in a New Orleans nursing home. She was active in the community in which she lived. The manager of Malta Park, a senior living facility, Sister Suzanne Pescay, remembers Sister Christine as, “She was more than willing to serve as a substitute receptionist for a few hours any day. There she met visitors graciously and served residents. She was helpful to those who could not recall where they should be and when they should be there.”

In her last decade, she lived in many different communities in New Orleans. Circumstances necessitated more than a half-dozen moves since Hurricane Katrina. Most of her moves brought her to communities for the elderly.

Her death was sudden and unexpected in the early morning on Tuesday, July 23, 2019, in Metairie, Louisiana. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Shirley Trosclair, and her brother Joseph. She is survived by her sister, Mae Leaveau of New Orleans, and her brother of Whittier, California.

Morning prayer and visitation was at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July, 2019, at St. Teresa Church in Chatawa, Mississippi. The Eucharistic celebration followed at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Suresh Thirumalareddy as the celebrant. She was buried in the cemetery in Chatawa, Mississippi.

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