



**Birth**  
July 7, 1922

**Baptism**  
July 7, 1922

**Profession**  
July 30, 1943

**Death**  
October 18, 2021

**Burial**  
Santa 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

## *In Loving Memory*

### Sister Marie Virginia Strubhart

On July 7, 1922, the second of ten children was born to Margaret (Urban) and Andrew Nick Strubhart in Aviston, Illinois. On that very day, she was taken by her grandparents to St. Francis of Assisi Church to be baptized and named Mary Margaret. However, from her early school years, she was often called Margaret Mary. The family of ten children included four girls and six boys.

Margaret attended elementary school at St. Francis of Assisi in Aviston. It was a public school at that time with the School Sisters of Notre Dame as teachers. The Strubhart home was several blocks from school, so she often stayed after school to help the sisters. When she reached the middle and upper grades, she also helped with sacristy work. It was no surprise, then, that she wanted to become a sister. Her parents graciously consented to her attending the aspiranture at Sancta Maria in Ripa for her high school education. It was not easy for her to leave her close-knit family, but this is what she felt called to do and she was able to spend the summers with the family.

With her parents' blessing, Margaret entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa on August 28, 1940. She was received into the novitiate on July 29, 1942, and given the name Mary Virginia. Shortly after her reception as a novice, her name was changed to Marie Virginia. She professed first vows on July 30, 1943, and final vows on July 30, 1949.

Sister Marie Virginia earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Arkansas State Teachers College (now University), Conway, Arkansas in 1953 and a master's degree in elementary administration from St. Louis University, Missouri in 1972.

Following her profession, Sister Marie Virginia began her 49-year career as an elementary educator. For fifteen of those years, she was a principal and upper-grade teacher at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Indio, California; St. Luke in Belleville, Illinois; Sacred Heart in Lawrence, Nebraska; and St. Michael in Radom, Illinois. She was an elementary teacher at Sacred Heart in DuQuoin, Illinois; St. Charles Borromeo in St. Charles, Missouri; St. Joseph in Conway, Arkansas; Sacred Heart in Rich Fountain, Missouri; St. Helen in Fresno, California; St. Augustine and St. Dominic in Breese, Illinois; and Our Lady of Peace in House Springs, Missouri.

In 1992, at the age of 70, Sister Marie Virginia was missioned to Sancta Maria in Ripa. She was the director of the liturgical fabric arts department for four years. For the next 16 years, she was a seamstress in the department on a part-time basis. She also substituted in the post office on the Ripa campus. In her free time, she kept things in order in the sisters' sewing room, cared for the machines and helped sisters with minor sewing problems. She also checked on the computers in the computer lab and kept order in the craft room. She had a busy retirement!

In 2013, Sister Marie Virginia was missioned to Veronica House, The Sarah Community in Bridgeton, Missouri.

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Marie Virginia  
Strubhart*



She continued to minister by mending clothes for the sisters. She celebrated her 75th jubilee of religious profession in 2018. She passed away peacefully in the early morning of October 18, 2021, at DePaul Hospital in Bridgeton. She had been anointed and was surrounded by the nursing staff who prayed with her. At the time of her death, she was the oldest living sister in the former St. Louis Province.

A wake was held at The Sarah Community on October 27, 2021. The reading of her biography, sharing of memories and the celebration of the Mass of Resurrection was held the following morning at Theresa Center. Rev. Dennis Schaab was celebrant. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa Cemetery. In attendance were her sisters, Gertrude Frey of Highland, Illinois and Elizabeth Salemi of Oldsmar, Florida; extended family members, friends and SSND. Sister Marie Virginia was preceded in death by her parents, her six brothers, Charles, Paul, James, Xavier, Nicholas and Thomas; and her sister, Martha Altgilbers.

Sister Marie Virginia was a quiet, gentle and kind person. She readily offered her assistance to anyone in need. She was encouraging and supportive of the children she taught, the sisters she lived with and her friends and colleagues. As a seamstress, she was a perfectionist and many liturgical vestments were the recipients of her skills and careful attention. She was a faith-filled person who shared her love of Jesus with those she encountered. May she be richly rewarded for her long life of fidelity to God's call as she now enters into eternal life with her God and her family members who have gone before her.

*By Sister Carol Marie Willtt, SSND*

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