



**Birth**  
December 30, 1931

**Baptism**  
January 17, 1932

**Profession**  
July 31, 1953

**Death**  
July 24, 2019

**Burial**  
Sancta Maria in Ripa

*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 Alcuin Rottjakob

Sister Mary Alcuin Rottjakob, 87, died peacefully at Anna House at The Sarah Community in Bridgeton, Missouri, in the early morning of July 23, 2019. She was the first child of Anna (Stallein) and Bernard Rottjakob. She was born at St. Anthony's Hospital, St. Louis, on December 30, 1931, in the midst of a cold December snow storm. She was baptized on January 17, 1932 at St. Augustine, St. Louis, and given the name Virginia Anna. For four years, she received the love of her parents as an only child. Then, her joy was increased when her mother gave birth to twin boys, Joseph and Paul.

Virginia was educated by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) at St. Engelbert's Grade School. The family lived next to the school. During these years, she gradually came to experience the desire to become one of the sisters. She began high school at Rosati-Kain High School. In her sophomore year, she transferred to Laboure High School, where she was taught by the Daughters of Charity. During her high school years, Virginia worked as a clerk at Woolworth's Department Store.

Although Virginia desired to enter the SSND, her parents asked her to wait a year. During this year, she was employed as a typist for an insurance company. When the year was over and she again expressed her wish to enter religious life, her parents readily gave their consent. Virginia entered at Sancta Maria in Ripa on August 31, 1950. After a year of college studies, she was missioned to teach at St. Peter, St. Charles, Missouri. She was received into the novitiate on July 29, 1952 and given the name Mary Alcuin. She professed her first vows on July 31, 1953 and final vows on July 31, 1959.

Sister Alcuin taught elementary children for 17 years. She taught at St. Gabriel the Archangel, St. Louis, for 10 years; St. Lucy, St. Louis, for six years; and St. Joseph, East St. Louis, Illinois, for one year. She was an elementary principal for a total of 14 years; six years at St. Lucy, St. Louis; Hannibal Catholic School, Hannibal, Missouri, for four years; one year at St. Francis Borgia, Washington, Missouri; and Our Lady School in Festus, Missouri, for three years.

She received a bachelor of arts degree in history from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1959, and a master of arts degree in history from St. Louis University, St. Louis in 1967.

In 1975, Sister Alcuin was elected a provincial councilor for the former St. Louis Province. After two terms as a member of the provincial council, she served as treasurer for the former St. Louis Province for seven years. Following a sabbatical, she was a pastoral minister at St. George, Linn, Missouri, and then performed community service at Villa Gesu, St. Louis.

She became the administrative assistant for Notre Dame Travel for six years in 1995. She was employed as the bookkeeper for the LaSalette Fathers for 11 years and for the Immigrant and Refugee Women's Program for one year. During this

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# In Loving Memory



*Sister Mary Alcuin Rottjakob*



time, she also gave community service for Theresa Center at Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis.

In November 2011, Sister Alcuin was missioned to Veronica House at The Sarah Community in Bridgeton, Missouri. As her health continued to decline, she was transferred to Anna House in December 2015. She was placed on hospice in early July 2019. Sister Alcuin died peacefully on July 23, 2019 at Anna House.

A wake and prayer service were held at The Sarah Community and Theresa Center on July 26, 2019. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning at Theresa Center with Rev. Dennis Meyer, M.S., as president. Burial was in Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery. Her twin brothers, other family members from various states, classmates, friends and SSND were present for the funeral services

She is survived by her twin brothers, Joseph (Yvonne) and Paul, nieces, nephews and their children. She was preceded in death by her parents and sister-in-law, Jackie Rottjakob.

Sister Alcuin was an excellent educator and administrator. She shared her many gifts and talents with her sisters in community and those with whom she ministered. She was an organized, determined person with a very tender heart. As an educator, she mentored many younger sisters.

She was extremely devoted to her family and looked forward to sharing time with them. She was proud of her parents who were originally from Germany and she kept in contact with her German relatives. She delighted in playing cards with her family and friends. At the time of her diamond Jubilee, Sister Alcuin recalled that her years at St. Gabriel School, “Were the strongest years of formation for me. I was surrounded with many models of teaching and living as a woman of the church.”

As a provincial councilor, she was privileged to visit the sisters in Africa. She also felt privileged to be a delegate for the 1982 General Chapter. May she now rejoice as she is reunited with her parents and begins her new life with her God!

*By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND*

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