



**Birth**  
July 5, 1921

**Baptism**  
July 10, 1921

**Profession**  
July 31, 1942

**Death**  
May 19, 2020

**Burial**  
Sancta 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 Mary Bede Hurst

On July 5, 1921, the sixth of 14 children was born to Marguerite (Knoll) and August Hurst in St. Louis. She shares her birth date with her twin, Rita. Five days later on July 10, 1921, she was baptized at Holy Ghost Church and named Dolores Helen. Among the 10 girls and four boys, God called three girls to the School Sisters of Notre Dame (our deceased Sister Augusteen and deceased Sister Margaret Cortona, and Sister Mary Bede) and one boy to the Franciscans, deceased Rev. Mark Hurst, OFM.

Dolores attended Our Lady of Sorrows Grade School in St. Louis, where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Following graduation from St. John the Baptist High School, she followed her older sister, Sister Augusteen and entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa on August 30, 1939. During her two years of candidature, she attended Notre Dame Junior College. On July 30, 1941, she was received into the novitiate and given the name Mary Bede. Profession of first vows was July 31, 1942, and final vows on July 31, 1948.

Sister Mary Bede was awarded a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Quincy College, Quincy, Illinois, in 1950.

For over 60 years, Sister Mary Bede ministered as a primary teacher or in early childhood education. She taught at St. Francis Solanus, Quincy, Illinois, and St. Francis of Assisi in Teutopolis, Illinois. She ministered for 11 years in California at St. Hilary, Pico Rivera; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Indio; and St. Martin, LaMesa. She was one of the three pioneer sisters to open St. Hilary School in Pico Rivera, California, where she had 68 first graders. In Missouri, she taught at Holy Family, Freeburg; St. William and St. Andrew, St. Louis; St. George, Linn and St. Martin de Porres, Hazelwood.

From August 1981 to January 1982, she helped care for her father. In 1986, she taught for one year in the Notre Dame Tutorial Center at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis. The following year, she began 18 years of serving as a teacher assistant in the Notre Dame Preschool at Ripa.

During these years of ministry, she touched the lives of several thousand young children. In an interview shortly before her retirement in 2005, she commented, "I taught 2,719 primary age children over the years. Each year, I recorded the names of my students in a notebook...I pray for each and every one of them every day. I loved each day as a teacher."

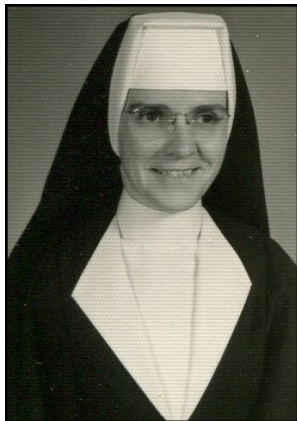
Sister Mary Bede was missioned to Veronica House, the Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri, in October 2006. She was transferred to Anna House in September 2009. She died peacefully at Anna House on May 19, 2020.

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Mary Bede Hurst*



She was laid to rest at Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery on May 27, 2020. Family members gathered under a gazebo, sisters were by the entrance doors and the casket was under the overhang. Deacon Paul Martin, the son of Sister Mary Bede's twin sister, Rita, led the prayers. Family members and sisters blessed the casket. A memorial Mass will be celebrated at a later date. She is survived by her brother, John, his wife, nieces, nephews and friends.

Sister Mary Bede was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Joseph, James and Rev. Mark, OFM; her sisters, Sister M. Augusteen, SSND; Sister Margaret Cortona, SSND; Virginia Hurst; Rita (Charles) Martin; Rose Mary (John) Kusmec; Mary Jane (Charles) Stewart; Therese (Clifford) Kusmec; Joan (Ed) Albes; Margaret Voorhess

Sister Mary Bede loved children and introducing them to the academic world as she taught them to use their gifts. She was also inspired by their curiosity and openness to learn. She prepared hundreds of children for the reception of the Sacraments.

At family gatherings, she made it a point to hug and greet each child. One of her cherished memories is a visit to the Holy Land with her priest brother as a guide. In 2017, she celebrated 75 years of religious profession.

May Jesus, the Friend of children, welcome her into His loving arms as she enters eternal life and joins her family members who have preceded her.

*By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND*

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