



In Loving Memory

Sister Paulette Marie Tiefenbrunn

Sister Paulette Marie Tiefenbrunn, 76, passed away at Watsonville General Hospital, Watsonville, California on August 25, 2022.

The third child, and only daughter, was born to Pauline (Poepper) and Raymond Tiefenbrunn on September 18, 1945, at Lutheran Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri. She was baptized on September 30, 1945, at Immaculate Conception Church, Arnold, Missouri and named Joyce Adeline. Her childhood was spent in the company of two older brothers, Ronald and Gerald. Due to her father's love of the outdoors, she and her brothers spent time fishing, roaming through the woods, wading in the streams, horseback riding, etc.

Joyce attended Immaculate Conception Grade School in Arnold which was staffed by the Ursuline Sisters. After graduation, a cousin encouraged her to enroll at Notre Dame High School, St. Louis, Missouri which was staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). A highlight of her freshman year was the ordination of her oldest brother, Ronald. As a junior, she began seriously to consider whether she was being called to religious life.

Joyce entered as a postulant at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, on August 25, 1963. She was received into the novitiate on July 30, 1964, and given the name Paulette Marie. She professed first vows on July 31, 1965, and final vows on July 31, 1970.

Sister Paulette Marie was awarded a bachelor's degree in American Studies from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, Missouri in 1967 and a master's degree in elementary education from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois in 1980.

Sister Paulette Marie spent 52 years in Catholic education. She began this ministry at St. Philip, East St. Louis, Illinois. In 1972, she was missioned to St. Helen, Fresno, California as principal and teacher. After four years, she returned to the Midwest and was principal and teacher at St. Aloysius, St. Louis, Missouri. In 1984, she began a five-year term as assistant superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Fresno. She then returned to teach at St. Helen's. Four years later, she became the principal and teacher at Sacred Heart School, Salinas, California. She spent over 25 years ministering in California.

After a sabbatical, she taught at Holy Rosary School, Houma, Louisiana, and then became principal at Holy Rosary Academy, New Orleans. In 2016, Sister Paulette was named an American Graduate Champion by New Orleans Public Television. This honor recognized her work with special needs students at Holy Rosary Academy. The American Graduate Champion program highlighted issues surrounding at-risk youths and promoted dialogue between community members, educators, parents and students.

The next two years, she was a fundraiser for low-income schools in the

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Birth
September 18, 1945

Baptism
September 30, 1945

Profession
July 31, 1965

Death
August 25, 2022

Burial
Sancta Maria in Ripa
Cemetery

*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 Paulette Marie
Tiefenbrunn*

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Archdiocese of New Orleans. She then taught at St. Joan of Arc, New Orleans, and was a tutor at Carlos Reinoso Behavioral Health and Human Development Center, Metairie, Louisiana. In 2018, she became assistant to the director of peace and justice for Catholic Charities in New Orleans. The following year, she was the director of the math pull-out program at St. Stephen Elementary School, New Orleans.

In 2020, Sister Paulette Marie returned to California. After a period of ministry discernment, she became the Restorative Justice Coordinator for the Monterey Diocese and also volunteered at Villa Maria Retreat Center, Santa Cruz, California.

Sister Paulette Marie was very devoted to her family and they to her. She loved greatly and was greatly loved. She was an excellent educator and mentor. An extrovert, she offered gracious hospitality and warmly welcomed others. She was fun-loving. She was a delightful community member and sought to build community with her sisters in community, her colleagues and students.

During her years in Catholic education in Illinois, Missouri, California and Louisiana, Sister Paulette Marie's various positions enabled her to minister to children and families of many ethnic, social, economic and familial backgrounds. Her major goal as an educator was to form community with parents, students and teachers as she strove to enable each child to develop to their full potential, academically, spiritually and emotionally. She was a valued member of the Ministry Commission for the SSND Central Pacific Province. As she enters eternal life, may she receive the blessings promised by Jesus to those who welcome and teach the children.

Sister Paulette Marie passed away peacefully in the morning of August 25, 2022, at Watsonville General Hospital, Watsonville, California, with her nephew, Don, at her bedside. She was cremated and her cremains were sent to Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, for the funeral services. The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated on October 12, 2022, with Rev. John Eaton, OFM, as president. Family members, classmates, former students, friends, SSNDs and associates were in attendance. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery.

She is survived by her nephews, Don, Jeff, Rob and Jerry, their spouses and children and other extended family members. She was preceded in death by her parents and her two brothers, Rev. Ronald and Gerald.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND