



In Loving Memory

Sister Philip Marie Link

Sister Philip Marie Link, 93, died on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at Anna House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri. She was born in Quincy, Illinois, and was the oldest of nine children born to Philip and Edna (Maas) Link. On July 8, 1925, she was baptized at St. John Church in Quincy, and given the name Georgeanne Elizabeth.

Georgeanne had a happy childhood and often would help care for her three sisters and five brothers. Her parents were devout Catholics, providing an example for their children by praying together and attending religious services in the parish. Her father owned a grocery store. When she was young, the family lived in a house attached to the store and later above the store.

During her elementary school years, the family moved several times. She attended St. John School in Quincy, Illinois, staffed by the Poor Handmaids, for three years; Blessed Sacrament School in Springfield, Illinois, for 1½ years; St. Gall School in Chicago, for one-half year and St. Francis, Quincy, Illinois, for her remaining three years of elementary school. After graduation, she entered Notre Dame High School in Quincy. She was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Francis and Notre Dame High School, both in Quincy, Illinois.

Georgeanne loved the sisters and the desire to join them increased as she got older. Her parents supported her but asked that she complete high school before leaving for the convent. She entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa on August 25, 1943. She was received into the novitiate on July 30, 1945, and given the name Philip Marie after her father. She professed first vows on July 31, 1946, and final vows on July 31, 1952.

She received a bachelor's degree in education from Loyola University, New Orleans, in 1956, and a master's degree in education from St. Louis University, St. Louis, in 1966.

Sister Philip Marie ministered in elementary education for 56 years. She taught at Sacred Heart, New Orleans; St. Liborius and St. Aloysius Gonzaga, St. Louis; St. Anthony, Sullivan, Missouri; and in Illinois at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Herrin; St. Philip and Holy Angels, East St. Louis; St. Louis, Nokomis; St. Mary, New Berlin; and St. Cabrini, Springfield. She was also principal at Holy Angels, East St. Louis, Illinois; St. Aloysius Gonzaga, St. Louis; St. Anthony, Sullivan, Missouri; and St. Louis, Nokomis, Illinois.

From 1995-2002, she was able to care for her aging mother in Springfield, Illinois, while she continued to teach. When St. Cabrini School closed, she was asked to minister to the homebound in St. Cabrini Parish. She served in this capacity for 12 years before coming to Veronica House in 2014. In mid-August 2018, she suffered a stroke which affected her right side. She was in rehab at Anna House when she passed away very unexpectedly on the morning of September 11, 2018.

Birth
July 7, 1925

Baptism
July 8, 1925

Profession
July 31, 1946

Death
September 11, 2018

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

continued

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Sister Philip Marie was an excellent elementary educator and administrator with a great love for the children entrusted to her care. She was handy with tools and relied on this skill to make repairs and construct items her teachers needed. She was a fun-loving person whose smile drew her to others. An extrovert, she liked to talk, often going into great detail. She readily made friends and could recall new acquaintances by name. One of her greatest joys when she left the classroom was to visit the homebound and to bring them the Eucharist.

A wake/vigil was held at Anna House and Theresa Center on September 17, 2018. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with Rev. Richard Chiola of Springfield, Illinois, as president. He had been Sister Philip Marie's pastor at St. Cabrini in Springfield and held her in high regard. Her living siblings, other relatives, friends and SSNDs came to celebrate the funeral services.

She was preceded in death by her parents and infant brother David. She is survived by three sisters: Phyllis (Paul) LaRoche of Quincy, Illinois; Dolores (Jack) Neumann of Crown Point, Indiana; Barbara (Vince) Zimmerman of Springfield, Illinois; and four brothers: Bob (Celia) Link of Des Plaines, Illinois; Jack (Pat) of Springfield, Illinois; Paul (Grace) Link of Appleton, Wisconsin; Jim (Linda) Link of Loraine, Illinois.

A deeply spiritual woman, Sister Philip Marie trusted God in the various assignments she was given during her years of ministry. Her favorite prayer was, "May I experience the joy of life in Your presence, O God." May she now realize the fulfillment of this prayer as she rejoices in God's presence in a new way!

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND

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