

In Loving Memory

Sister Rose Miriam Wegman

Sister Rose Miriam Wegman, 92, died peacefully in the early hours of January 31, 2024, at Anna House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri.

The eighth and youngest child of Rose Ann (Westerman) and Leo Wegman was born March 15, 1931, in Jefferson City, Missouri. She was baptized the following Sunday, March 22, at Immaculate Conception, Jefferson City, and named Rosemary Elizabeth. Rosemary never knew four of her brothers as they died in infancy. She grew up in a happy home with an older sister and two older brothers.

Rosemary attended elementary and the first two years of secondary school at Immaculate Conception, staffed by the Incarnate Word Sisters. For her junior year, she enrolled at St. Peter's High School where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND).

Following graduation, she entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, September 1, 1948. As a second-year candidate, she taught second grade at Sts. Peter and Paul, St. Louis, during the second semester. She was received into the novitiate August 1, 1950, and was given the name Rose Miriam. She pronounced first vows August 2, 1951, and final vows August 2, 1957.

Sister Rose Miriam earned a bachelor's degree in English from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1955; a master's degree in English from Xavier University, New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1962; and a master's degree in secondary education administration from St. Louis University, St. Louis, in 1969.

After profession, Sister Rose Miriam spent 10 years as a classroom teacher at Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Louis; Redemptorist High School, New Orleans, Louisiana; and Duchesne High School, St. Charles, Missouri. She then became principal at Duchesne High School for three years. In 1964, Sister Rose Miriam began her ministry as an associate superintendent in the St. Louis Archdiocesan School Office. In this position, she ministered as a consultant for secondary schools and for language arts in the elementary and secondary schools of the archdiocese.

In 1971, Sister Rose Miriam was elected to the former St. Louis Provincial Council. During her time as councilor, she was also the provincial treasurer. She was one of the founding members of the SSND Interprovincial Finance Committee and oversaw the entrance of the St. Louis SSND into the Social Security program.

After two terms as provincial councilor, she was invited to the Generalate in Rome to minister as the general treasurer for the international congregation. She was willing to do it provided she received academic training. During the next year, she studied at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, taking courses in accounting, Italian and German. In September 1980, she left for Rome. She

continued



Birth
March 15, 1931

Baptism
March 22, 1931

Profession
August 2, 1951

Death
January 31, 2024

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

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was the assistant treasurer for two years and then assumed the duties of general treasurer for the next eight years. During this time, she was privileged to be present for the beatification of Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, SSND foundress, in November 1985. She was graced to proclaim the first reading in St. Mary Major Basilica for the first Mass offered in Blessed Theresa's honor the following day.

During her flight home to the United States in December 1990, she received word that her brother Leroy had died. This was a great sorrow for her. To aid in her reentry, she made a 30-day retreat at Grand Coteau, Louisiana. In her discernment for ministry, she accepted the position of finance/development staff member at St. Peter Cathedral, Belleville, Illinois. After five years, she accepted the position of manager at the Cardinal Ritter Institute's DuBourg House, a residential care facility in St. Louis. This position was followed by working in the finance office at Notre Dame High School and later, as secretary for Notre Dame Preschool, both on the Sancta Maria in Ripa campus, St. Louis.

Sister Rose Miriam transitioned to Veronica House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, in 2011. She was transferred to Anna House in 2019. She died peacefully in the early hours of January 31, 2024, at Anna House.

A prayer service was held at The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, February 6, 2024. Funeral services were held at Theresa Center the following morning. Visitation, reading of the biography and sharing of memories preceded the celebration of the Mass of Resurrection with Rev. Ralph Parthie, OFM as president. Family members, including her niece, Sister Kathleen Wegman, SSND, classmates, friends, former students, School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND associates were in attendance. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa Cemetery, St. Louis. Sister Rose Miriam was preceded in death by her parents, Rose Ann and Leo Wegman, her brothers, Jack and Leroy, and her sister, Jeanette Woody.

Sister Rose Miriam was remembered as a prayerful person with a ready smile and a generous heart, willing to assist wherever needed. She had the gift of friendship and enjoyed playing cards and being with her friends. She was intelligent and very organized. She was supportive of those who worked with her or to whom she ministered. Her international experience gave her a global vision and an openness to others.

May Sister Rose Miriam be abundantly blessed in her new life with her God and rejoice in being re-united with family members, sisters and friends who have preceded her into eternal life.

By Carol Marie Wildt, SSND