



Birth
March 15, 1932

Baptism
March 27, 1932

Profession
August 1, 1952

Death
October 22, 2021

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 Rosemary (Mary Christine) Hufker

Rosemary, the second of four children of Christina (Heine) and William Hufker, was born on March 15, 1932, in Richmond Heights, Missouri. Rosemary was baptized at St. Luke Church in Richmond Heights on March 27, 1932, and was named Rosemary Christina. Rosemary grew up with her brother, William, and her sister, Geraldine.

Rosemary attended St. Luke's Grade School, staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. She entered Rosati-Kain High School where she met the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). During her high school years, she often thought of a religious vocation. After prayer and consultation with a spiritual director, she decided to enter the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Rosemary entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa on August 31, 1950. She was received into the novitiate on July 30, 1951, and was given the name Mary Christine in honor of her mother. She professed first vows on August 1, 1952, and final vows on August 1, 1958. She later returned to her baptismal name.

Sister Rosemary earned a bachelor's degree in Latin from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1958; a master's degree in French from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, in 1966 and a doctoral degree in higher education from St. Louis University, St. Louis, in 1969.

Following profession, Sister Rosemary began her teaching ministry at Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Louis. After nine years, she was transferred to Mater Dei High School, Breese, Illinois. In 1965, she taught one year at the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, and then pursued a doctoral degree at St. Louis University. She was awarded a National Defense Education Act (NDEA) Title IV Fellowship grant to cover expenses. Returning to the former Notre Dame College, she was appointed the chairperson of the education department. When the college closed in 1977, she obtained the position of chairperson of the education division at Alverno College, Milwaukee. Returning to the St. Louis area in 1981, she became the director of adult and continuing education at Maryville College (now University).

In 1984, she took a position with Community Creativity, Inc. in Washington, D.C., and collaborated with three other women as consultants and facilitators for leadership training of various religious and civic groups. In 1989, she became the director of Maria Center for life-long learning and enrichment located on the Sancta Maria in Ripa campus. When this ministry was discontinued, she taught part-time at St. Louis University and was a freelance consultant/facilitator. In 2003, she became the principal at De LaSalle Middle School, St. Louis. In 2005, she became the coordinator of Maria Center, which was a conference and rental facility at the time. In her retirement years, Sister Rosemary was an education consultant for various schools and groups.

In 1976, Sister Rosemary authored, "The Catholic School: a Strategy for Renewal." She was a trailblazer, an innovator and a creative teacher. She was a wise mentor to many teachers. She valued education and saw its great

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Rosemary Hufker



potential for the teachers, students and parents. Sister Rosemary gave numerous workshops, was a member of various advisory boards and facilitated religious and civic groups. Her goal was to improve the quality of education by involving faculty, parents and students.

She came to the infirmary at Sancta Maria in Ripa in early October 2021 and was placed on hospice. She died peacefully on October 22, 2021, with her sister and niece at her bedside. Sister Rosemary expressed the desire to be cremated with her cremains buried in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery.

The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated in the Theresa Center chapel on November 5, 2021, with Rev. Ralph Parthie, OFM, as celebrant. Her community member, Sister Vincella Lake, SSND, family members, colleagues, former students, friends and SSND, came together to celebrate her life. Following the funeral services, a luncheon was served to guests in Theresa Center auditorium.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her two brothers, Joseph and William. She is survived by her sister, Geraldine Hufker of St. Louis; nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Sister Rosemary was an educator who sought to improve the quality of education for her students. Her experience of teaching elementary, secondary and college students was a firm foundation for the recommendations she offered to faculty and parents. As a consultant and facilitator, she fostered an inter-relational process as a basis for decision-making. She was a kind, gentle and supportive person. She readily offered her assistance to Sisters who were having problems in the computer labs at Ripa. As the director in Maria Center, she was hospitable, organized and responded to the needs of clients. She had a great love of creation and saw herself as a co-creator with her Triune God. May she now rejoice in beholding her God face to face as she experiences her new life.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND

To make a memorial gift,
please visit our secure
online donation page
www.ssndcentralpacific.org/donate



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world
through education