



In Loving Memory

Sister Mary Sharon Rempe

Sister Mary Sharon Rempe, 96, died peacefully shortly before midnight on September 3, 2022, at DePaul Hospital, Bridgeton, Missouri. A close School Sister of Notre Dame (SSND) friend was with her as she gave her life to God.

A Christmas present arrived in the Rempe home in Hebron, Nebraska, on December 22, 1925. A little girl was born to Cecelia (Lienert) and William Rempe. On Christmas Day in 1925, she was baptized at Sacred Heart Church in Hebron and named Sophie Magdalene, after her two grandmothers. Sophie was the sixth of seven children in the family of five girls and two boys.

At the age of 5, Sophie entered first grade at Sacred Heart School where she was taught by School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). When she was 7 years old, her oldest sister Mary (Sister Merita) entered SSND in St. Louis. Graduating from elementary school, Sophie dreaded going to the public high school. One of the sisters suggested that she might go to the Aspiranture at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis. Her father and sister, Rose, drove her to St. Louis. This perfect solution to her dread of high school very quickly gave way to an ardent desire to return home. Her father told her, "You do not quit anything until you have tried it. You are always welcome at home, but first you have to give this a try." The next months were difficult ones, but eventually, she let God take over and she graduated after her four years of high school.

Following graduation, Sophie was employed at the local "Five and Dime" store. However, God continued to call her and seven months later, she entered the Candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa on January 17, 1944. She was received into the Novitiate on July 30, 1945 and given the name Mary Sharon. Her profession of first vows was on July 31, 1946, and final vows on July 31, 1952.

Sister Sharon was a classroom teacher for 25 years at St. Gerard Majella, San Antonio; Rosati-Kain High School and Rosary High School, St. Louis; Mount Carmel High School, Houston; and St. Paul High School, Santa Fe Springs, California. She was a counselor for 12 years at Notre Dame High School, Quincy, Illinois; St. Francis Borgia High School, Washington, Missouri; and St. Anthony High School, Effingham, Illinois.

In 1979, it became evident that Sister Sharon's aged mother required someone to live with her. Sister Sharon and Sister Mary (Merita) shared this ministry. However, Sister Mary was diagnosed with cancer and passed away in 1989. Therefore, between 1981 and 1996, Sister Sharon spent 13 years caring for her aged mother in Lincoln, Nebraska. Her mother died one month before her 107th birthday in 1996.

Returning to the St. Louis area, Sister Sharon became a volunteer at various schools. During the next 18 years, she was a volunteer at Notre Dame High School, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, for a semester, Our Lady of Loretto, St. Aloysius, St. John Neumann and Christ Light of the Nations elementary schools and at Rosary and Trinity high schools, St. Louis. All of these St. Louis

continued

Birth
December 22, 1925

Baptism
December 25, 1925

Profession
July 31, 1946

Death
September 3, 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

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North County schools were involved in mergers during this time. In 2014, she was missioned to Veronica House, Bridgeton, Missouri, and following hip surgery in 2017, to Anna House.

A prayer service was held at The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri, on September 8, 2022. The following morning, the Mass of Resurrection was celebrated at Theresa Center Chapel, St. Louis, with Rev. Tom Haley, a close friend, as president. The reading of Sister Sharon's biography and sharing of memories preceded the Mass. Family members, SSND, friends, colleagues and former students were in attendance. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery. Following the Mass, a luncheon was held for the guests in Theresa Center auditorium.

Sister Sharon was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers, Paul and Joseph; her sisters: Sister Mary (Merita), SSND, Dorothy Bomberger, Rose Scheck and Margaret Antholz. She is survived by nieces, nephews and extended family members.

In her autobiography, Sister Sharon wrote that the qualities she observed in her mother would be qualities she hoped to have. She saw her mother as: "a strong, gentle, loving, happy person whose inner beauty was always evident." In addition to these qualities, Sister Sharon is remembered as a grateful, witty, understanding and humble person with an excellent memory. She did not hesitate to share her opinions, but always looked for the good in what was being discussed. During her 76 years as a School Sister of Notre Dame, she influenced many and this was evident by those in attendance at the funeral services.

Sister Sharon had a great love for her family, community members, colleagues, students and their parents. In her retirement years, she enjoyed doing crossword puzzles, watching game shows and keeping up with her favorite college football team, the Nebraska Cornhuskers. May she now rejoice with her loved ones who have preceded her in death as she is welcomed by her beloved God.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND

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