

In Loving Memory

Sister Therese Mary Rebstock

Sister Therese Mary Rebstock, 94, died peacefully at The Sarah Community, Anna House, Bridgeton, Missouri in the afternoon of November 4, 2023.

The oldest of four children was born to Lillian (James) and Clement Rebstock September 1, 1929 in Carmi, Illinois.

She was baptized November 3, 1929, at St. Polycarp Church and named Lois Jeanne. Later, two brothers and a sister were welcomed into the Rebstock family. The second oldest child, Donald, passed away when he was 6 years old.

Lois began her educational journey at the age of five when she entered Carmi Public School, Carmi, Illinois, under the guidance of her aunt. The Adorers of the Precious Blood Sisters from Ruma, Illinois came for religious instruction Saturday mornings. She attended Carmi Township High School for two years. Through some friends, her parents heard of the Academy of Notre Dame in Belleville, Illinois and enrolled Lois as a boarding student. She had often thought of being a teacher and her two years at the Academy under the guidance of the School Sisters of Notre Dame confirmed this desire.

Lois entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa August 28, 1946. After two years of study at Notre Dame Junior College, she was missioned to St. Joseph, Apple Creek, Missouri to teach fifth and sixth grades and music. She was received into the novitiate July 28, 1949 and given the name Therese Mary. She pronounced first vows July 29, 1950 and final vows on July 29, 1956.

Sister Therese Mary received a bachelor's degree in English from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, Missouri in 1957, a master's degree in English from St. Louis University, St. Louis, in 1964 and a doctorate in education from Walden University in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1990.

She spent over 50 years in Catholic education as an elementary, secondary and college educator, a principal and a consultant at the St. Louis Archdiocesan School Office. She taught elementary children at St. Mary Eldorado, Illinois; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Indio, California; Holy Ghost, St. Louis, Missouri; St. Martin, Jefferson City, Missouri; St. Augustine, Breese, Illinois; St. James Catechetical Center, Coolidge, Arizona; Our Lady of Loretto, St. Louis, Missouri; St. Luke, Belleville, Illinois. She was principal at Our Lady of Loretto in St. Louis and St. Luke in Belleville, Illinois. She taught secondary students at the Academy of Notre Dame, Belleville, Illinois and was on the staff of John Paul Catholic High School in DuBois County, Indiana. From 1971-1974, she was a language arts consultant for the Catholic schools in the St. Louis Archdiocese.

Sister Therese Mary responded to a call to minister in Japan and served 18 years as a college teacher at Notre Dame Women's College (now University) in Kyoto and Nanzan University in Nagoya. Returning to the United States, she taught

continued



Birth
September 1, 1929

Baptism
November 3, 1929

Profession
July 29, 1950

Death
November 4, 2023

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 Therese Mary
Rebstock*



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at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota; Oakland City University, Oakland City, Indiana and St. Meinrad College, St. Meinrad, Indiana. She was a Director of Religious Education at St. Joseph, Jasper, Indiana for seven years.

In 1999, she began to research the history of the former St. Louis Province. The 6-volume history, *Called and Sent: A Charism of Service*, was completed in 2004. She continued to do research on a variety of topics during the following years. From 2007-2020, she was a lecturer at various locations for the Thomas Merton Lecture Series.

Sister Therese Mary had a missionary heart and an interest in many cultures. She taught African American children at Holy Ghost, St. Louis, Missouri, Mexican children at Indio, California, Native American children in Coolidge, Arizona and Japanese adults in Kyoto and Nagoya, Japan. Already in 1957, she volunteered to go to Japan. In 1969, she was on the preparatory committee for the formation of the Mission Secretariate: an interim commission formed by the 13th General Chapter.

She was a vibrant person who readily engaged in conversation on a variety of topics. She had a great devotion and love for the Eucharist. She loved her family and assisted them whenever it was possible for her to do so. She was a person who needed to have a job to keep her mind engaged. She had a great admiration for Thomas Merton and delighted in sharing the results of her research. When she could no longer do research, she began to collect the homilies at The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri, with a goal of distributing them and eventually organizing them into a book for publication. May she now rejoice with her God as she enters eternal life.

As her health failed, she was missioned to Veronica House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri in 2016 and to Anna House in 2022. In October 2023, she was diagnosed with leukemia and placed on hospice. She passed away peacefully in the afternoon of November 4, 2023, at Anna House. She is a participant in the RUSH University Religious Orders Alzheimer's Study. She chose cremation.

A prayer service was held at The Sarah Community on November 28, 2023. The reading of her biography, sharing of memories and the Mass of Resurrection was celebrated at Theresa Center, St. Louis, the following morning with Rev. Ralph Parthie, OFM as presider. Family members, friends, SSND and associates attended the funeral services. Burial of the cremains was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery, St. Louis.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Donald and Phil; and her sister, Mary (Tom) Eversman.

By Carol Marie Wildt, SSND