

In Loving Memory

Sister Valeria (Mary Rose Martin) Beuke



Sister Valeria (formerly Mary Rose Martin) Beuke, 89, passed away peacefully on May 13, 2023, at Anna House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri, as a sister prayed with her.

On November 28, 1933, the ninth of ten children, was born to Elizabeth (Hilke) and Martin Beuke in Washington, Missouri. She was baptized the same day at St. Francis Borgia Church, Washington, and named Valeria Genevieve. Two years later, her youngest sister was born, completing the family of seven girls and three boys. Catholic traditions and devotions were revered in the family home.

Valeria attended St. Francis Borgia Elementary and High School, Washington, Missouri, staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). In her sophomore year, she felt a strong inclination to enter religious life. She asked permission of her parents to enter the aspiranture in St. Louis, Missouri. A family friend, Sister Gemella Sommer, SSND, advised her parents to give their consent. Valeria completed her high school education at Notre Dame High School as an aspirant.

Valeria entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis on August 30, 1951. During her second year of candidature, she was sent to teach 50 fifth-grade children at St. Peter's School, St. Charles, Missouri. She was received into the novitiate on August 1, 1953, and given the name Mary Rose Martin. She professed first vows on August 2, 1954, and final vows on August 2, 1960. She later returned to her baptismal name.

She received a bachelor's degree in English from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis in 1963; a master's degree in English from California State University, Long Beach, California, in 1972. She was a participant in the Global Apostolic Awareness Program (GAAP) program in Honduras and Guatemala in 1976. She earned a master's degree in theology from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, in 1981. During this time, she received a grant for a five-week study tour in Israel, Jordan and Greece.

Sister Valeria's years of ministry included many diversified assignments. She taught elementary children at Annunciation, Bogalusa, Louisiana and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Herrin, Illinois. She taught religious education at the newly opened Immaculate Heart of Mary Catechetical Center, Carmi, Illinois. She was a principal at St. Joseph, Freeburg, Illinois and St. Marianne de Paredes, Pico Rivera, California. Returning to the Midwest in the early 1970s, she taught secondary students at Helias High School, Jefferson City, Missouri. Three years later, she was the coordinator of religious education at St. David, Arnold, Missouri. This was followed by teaching at Notre Dame High School, Cape Girardeau, Missouri and Notre Dame High School, Quincy, Illinois.

In 1984, Sister Valeria began 24 years of ministry with the Tohono O'odham

continued

Birth
November 28, 1933

Baptism
November 28, 1933

Profession
August 2, 1954

Death
May 13, 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 Valeria (Mary
Rose Martin) Beuke*



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Nation on the Tohono O'odham Reservation near the Sancta Rosa Mission in Sells, Arizona. During these years, she was a pastoral minister in twelve small villages, taught English at the high school on the reservation, was the lead teacher in the elementary school, taught adult students and directed the Family and Child Education program.

Returning to St. Louis in 2008, she was a tutor in the Notre Dame Tutorial/Learning Center on the Sancta Maria in Ripa campus. She then coordinated the ministry of the Migrant Whole Health Outreach in Kennett, Missouri, for two years. She provided a variety of services on the Sancta Maria in Ripa campus as the coordinator of donor relations and offered volunteer services to the province Mission Advancement Office, volunteered at Notre Dame Preschool, assisted in hospitality at Maria Center and other community services.

In 2017, she was a tutor at the Prenger Family Center in Jefferson City, Missouri, and also offered volunteer services at Immaculate Conception, Loose Creek, Missouri. She returned to Sancta Maria in Ripa and was a driver at Theresa Center. In March 2020, she was among the first of the SSNDs to move to Mother of Perpetual Help, St. Louis. Health concerns resulted in a transfer to Elizabeth House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri, in early November 2022, and to Anna House in December 2022. After several hospitalizations, she was placed on hospice. She passed away peacefully around 7:00 p.m. on May 13, 2023, at Anna House as a sister prayed with her.

A prayer service was held at The Sarah Community on May 18, 2023. The following morning, funeral services were held at Sancta Maria in Ripa. The reading of her biography and sharing of memories preceded the celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial with Rev. Ralph Parthie, OFM as presider. Family members, friends, classmates, SSNDs and associates attended the funeral services. The burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery. Sister Valeria is survived by two sisters, Mary Jo McDonald of Washington, Missouri, and Antoinette Osseck of Krakow, Missouri. She was preceded in death by her parents, Martin and Elizabeth (Hilke) Beuke; her brothers, Jerome, James and Stanley; her sisters, Evelyn Tobben, Genevieve Klott, Josephine Frankenberg and Jacqueline Klott.

Sister Valeria considered her 24 years of living with the Tohono O'odham Nation the most rewarding of her life. Through them, she was enriched by their faith, generosity, resilience and culture. She embedded herself in the culture and gave generously in response to any need. She was a determined person who willingly shared the Good News and her talents with others.

A significant scriptural quote that touched her deeply was, "You are the City of God, that is Jerusalem." She received this quote at a charismatic presentation and it continued to inspire her, as Jerusalem has the same number of syllables as Valeria. The roadrunner was another important symbol for her. She wrote: "Like a roadrunner on dusty desert road, I step, hesitate, then accelerate, and soar on Spirit breath to glide safely Home." May she rest in peace in her new heavenly home.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND