In Loving Memory

Sister M. Patricia Delaney

Birth
January 31, 1937

Baptism
February 21, 1937

Profession
August 3, 1957

Death
September 24, 2026

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

Sister M. Patricia Delaney, 89, passed away peacefully at Anna House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri, in the early morning of September 24, 2026, with a staff member at her bedside.

The youngest of 10 children was born to Loretta (Myler) and Edward Delaney at St. Mary's Hospital, East St. Louis, Illinois, on January 31, 1937. She was baptized at Holy Angels Church on February 21, 1937, and named Charlotte Mae. The Delaney family consisted of four boys and six girls. As there were many children in the neighborhood to play with, they learned early on how to entertain themselves.

Charlotte attended Holy Angels Grade School staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She was awarded a scholarship to the Academy of Notre Dame in Belleville, Illinois, which was also staffed by SSND. Charlotte was interested in religious life and asked to enter the candidature after graduation.

Her father had died during her sophomore year and therefore, her mother asked Charlotte to wait a year before entering. Due to a shortage of teachers, her pastor asked her to teach fourth grade at her parish of Holy Angels in East St. Louis. While teaching, she also attended Saturday classes at a local college.

Charlotte entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, on August 31, 1955. She was received into the novitiate on August 1, 1956, and given the name Mary Patricia in honor of one of her sisters. She pronounced first vows on August 3, 1957, and final vows six years later on August 3, 1963.

She was awarded a bachelor's degree in sociology from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1963 and a master's degree in elementary administration from St. Louis University in 1974.

Sister Patricia was an elementary classroom teacher for 14 years. She taught at Holy Ghost and Our Lady of Sorrows in St. Louis; St. Dominic, Breese, Illinois; and St. Hilary, Pico Rivera, California. She was a principal for 13 years at St. Francis Solanus, Quincy, Illinois, and Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Louis.

In 1984, she was asked to take the position as assistant superintendent of schools in the Diocesan Office of Belleville, Illinois. During the next 15 years, she was responsible for interviewing prospective principals, conducting and attending meetings, and working with schools on strategic planning.

In the spring of 1999, Sister Patricia was elected as a member of the Provincial Council of the former St. Louis Province. Her experience in the Belleville Diocesan office enabled her to organize gatherings of

continued

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Sister M. Patricia Delaney

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

SSND to attend the Assemblies of the Whole and gatherings for the Theological Development Council.

Through these ministries, she worked with SSND in the North American Provinces. She was also the liaison to the St. Louis Provincial Treasurer and attended national meetings related to finances. She served in this ministry until 2007 and then enjoyed a sabbatical year.

At the conclusion of her term as provincial councilor, she was invited to become a part-time adjunct consultant for Catholic School Management in Los Angeles. She served in this role for two years. She was then engaged in volunteer services at Corpus Christi Parish in Shiloh, Illinois; St. Vincent de Paul in East St. Louis, Illinois, and Theresa Center at Sancta Maria in Ripa until her transfer to Veronica House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri in 2022.

As her health declined, she was transferred to Anna House, The Sarah Community, in May 2026. Following a short stay in the hospital in September 2026, she was placed on hospice. She passed away peacefully in the early morning of September 24, 2026, with a staff member at her bedside.

Funeral services were held at The Sarah Community Marian Chapel on October 1, 2026. Viewing and sharing of memories preceded the celebration of the Mass of Resurrection with Rev. Clyde Grogan as presider. Family members, classmates, former students, friends, staff members, sisters in community and SSND Associates attended the funeral services. A reception followed in The Sarah Community assembly rooms. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery the following morning.

Sister Patricia was preceded in death by her parents; Loretta and Edward Delaney; her brothers, Thomas, John, Philip, and James; her sisters Audrey Armour, Mary Loretta Sweeney, Margaret Ann Doughety, Rita Harrison, and Patricia Hopkins. She is survived by nieces, nephews, extended family members, friends, School Sisters of Notre Dame, and SSND Associates.

Sister Patricia was an excellent educator and organizer. Although she was strict in the classroom, she was also encouraging, supportive, and cared greatly for her students and their parents. She assumed her roles in leadership with humility and responsibility. She accepted the challenges of these positions and found support and encouragement from her co-workers. She loved the SSND community and felt blessed to be of service to her sisters. She was a loyal friend and very close to her family. May she now rejoice as she is welcomed into eternal life by her family members who have preceded her and by her God whom she served so faithfully during her 69 years of religious life.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND