



Birth
March 22, 1929

Baptism
March 30, 1929

Profession
August 3, 1949

Death
February 6, 2013

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 Marie Xavier Padberg, SSND

Mary Alice, the third of six children was born to Emily [Albrecht] and John Padberg on March 22, 1929, in St. Louis, Mo. The little girl was baptized on March 30, 1929 at St. Anthony of Padua Church. The family of three girls and three boys grew up in a loving and caring home.

Mary Alice attended kindergarten and elementary school at Our Lady of Sorrows where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. After graduation, she enrolled at Rosati-Kain High School. One month after she began her secondary education, God called her father to his eternal reward. Her faith-filled mother continued to provide for the six children, ranging in ages from 4 to 16 years.

Inspired by the kindness and example of her teachers, Mary Alice began to think of religious life during her sophomore year. In her junior year, her oldest brother, John, entered the Society of Jesus. Graduating from high school, Mary Alice sought advice from the sisters and a priest and then asked her mother for permission to enter the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Her mother graciously consented and she entered the candidature at Ripa on August 28, 1946. During her second year of candidature, she was missioned to Sacred Heart, Effingham, Ill. and taught first and second graders. She was received into the novitiate on August 2, 1948, and given the name Marie Xavier. Her younger sister, Emily Ann [the future Sister Mary Frances] entered the candidature the following month on September 1, 1948. Sister Marie Xavier pronounced first vows on August 3, 1949, and final vows on August 3, 1955.

As a newly professed sister, she was one of the pioneers to open the new mission, Santa Isabel in Los Angeles, Calif., where she taught primary children. Ten years later, she was missioned to Sacred Heart, Lawrence, Neb. as principal and teacher of junior high for four years. She was then assigned to St. Joseph, Apple Creek, Mo. as principal and teacher of junior high for six years. She continued to teach elementary children during the next 13 years at St. Mary, Fort Madison, Iowa; St. Marianne, Pico Rivera, Calif.; St. Francis of Assisi, Teutopolis, Ill.; St. Hilary, Pico Rivera, Calif. and St. Peter Cathedral, Belleville, Ill. After 33 years in elementary education, she was assigned to the secretarial staff at Notre Dame High School and then Rosary High School in St. Louis, Mo.

In the 1990s, Sister Marie Xavier spent three years in Kyoto, Japan teaching private English lessons to the students. She did volunteer ministry at Villa Gesu, and Rosary High School, St. Louis. She was a tutor at the Southside Women's Center, St. Louis, and did community service at the St. Louis motherhouse prior to her retirement at Anna House in February 2003.

On January 22, 2013, she was placed on hospice. She died peacefully at Anna House on February 6, 2013, at 11:25 a.m. with her sister, Carol, her sister-in-law, Rosemary, and several SSNDs keeping vigil with her.

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Marie Xavier Padberg



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**School Sisters
of Notre Dame**
Central Pacific Province

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A wake/vigil was held at Anna House and Theresa Center on February 8, 2013. Her brother, Rev. John Padberg, SJ, presider, and eight of his Jesuit companions concelebrated the Mass of Christian Burial the following morning. Interment was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery. Relatives, friends, classmates, Jesuits and SSNDs joined in the celebration of her life.

Sister Marie Xavier is survived by her brother, Rev. John Padberg, SJ of St. Louis; her sister, Carol Padberg and sister-in-law, Rosemary [William] Padberg of St. Louis; nieces, nephew and their families. Her parents, Sister Mary Frances, SSND, and brothers William and Charles preceded her in death.

Lovingly referred to as “Sister X” and having a fondness for Pepsi-Cola, Sister Marie Xavier brought a sense of joy and laughter to many situations. She was an outgoing person with a great love for her family and the many persons she met during her 63 years of vowed life. She was an excellent educator and her students benefitted from her guidance and teaching methods. She manifested a good sense of humor and even as her memory failed her, she would often surprise a person with an unexpected quip. Her light-heartedness was balanced with a compassion for people and their concerns. She loved the outdoors and enjoyed walking outside or sitting and chatting with others as she recalled the mountain vistas of California. She was a missionary at heart and her time in Japan was blessed with her entrance into eternal life on the feast of the Japanese martyrs, St. Paul Miki and companions. May she now experience the reward promised by God to those who teach the Good News to others!

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND