



Birth
May 17, 1928

Baptism
May 17, 1928

Profession
August 2, 1954

Death
October 19, 2015

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 Lucille [Ralph Marie] Zerr, SSND

The oldest child of Clara (Schneider) and Ralph Zerr was born on May 17, 1928, in St. Peters, Missouri. She was baptized the same day at All Saints Church in St. Peters and given the name, Lucille Magdalen. When she was an infant, the family moved to St. Charles, Missouri. Five brothers and two sisters would follow her in the Zerr family. She had a blessed childhood and recalled the happy times they spent playing on their grandparents' farms.

Lucille attended St. Peter's Grade and High School in St. Charles, staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. When she graduated from high school, she had no definite plans for the future. She worked in a shoe factory for six months and then was employed at the St. Charles Savings Bank for five years. After several years of working in the business world, she began to seriously think about religious life. With the guidance of Rev. Charles Ruff, the spiritual director for the Young Ladies' Sodality and the Legion of Mary, the assistance of Sister Melita Zwick and time spent in prayer, she responded to God's call to religious life.

Lucille entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa, in St. Louis on January 23, 1952. She was received into the novitiate on August 1, 1953 and given the name Ralph Marie in honor of her father. Profession of first vows was on August 2, 1954 and final vows on August 2, 1960.

After profession, she remained at the motherhouse to complete her college studies. She received a bachelor's in English from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis in 1956. She received a master's in theology from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana in 1965.

Her teaching career was primarily in the elementary schools. She and two other SSNDs opened the new school at St. William, St. Louis in 1956. Other locations where she taught in Missouri were at St. Wenceslaus and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Louis; Our Lady of Lourdes, Washington; St. Mary, Cape Girardeau; Sacred Heart, Rich Fountain and St. Charles Borromeo, St. Charles. She was principal at St. Louis, Nokomis, Illinois. She also taught at St. Paul, Highland, Illinois and Notre Dame High School, St. Louis, Missouri.

Following 21 years in the classroom, Sister Lucille became a pastoral minister and director of religious education at St. Charles Borromeo, St. Charles, Missouri for 12 years. She returned to St. Mary's, Cape Girardeau and served as pastoral minister and director of religious education for six years and then as pastoral minister at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Cape Girardeau for 18 years. She retired in 2013 and was missioned to Veronica House in Bridgeton, Missouri.

After spending an enjoyable weekend with family and friends, Sister Lucille had returned to Veronica House on Monday, October 19, 2015. Very suddenly and unexpectedly, she was called home to God at 1:50 p.m.

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Lucille Zerr



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

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The wake and vigil were held in the Marian chapel at The Sarah Community and at the Theresa Center on October 25, 2015. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning in the Theresa Center chapel at Sancta Maria in Ripa. Rev. Thomas Kiefer, pastor at St. Mary's, Cape Girardeau was presider. Concelebrating with him were Bishop John Leibrecht, Msgr. Richard Rolwing, Rev. Allan Saunders, Rev. Normand Varone and Rev. William Hennecke. Also attending the funeral Mass were Deacon Tom Schumer and Brother David Migliorino. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery.

Sister Lucille is survived by one sister, Margaret (Vernon) Meyer of St. Charles, Missouri and four brothers: Paul (Mary Ann) of St. Charles, Missouri; Robert of Kansas City, Missouri; Bernard (Diana) of Bella Vista, Arkansas; and Ronald (Sheila) of Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. Nieces, nephews, other relatives, colleagues and parishioners from Cape Girardeau, friends and SSNDs attended the funeral services.

Sister Lucille was an excellent educator. After a successful career in Catholic education, she spent 36 years in pastoral ministry. During these years, she did grief counseling, made communion calls, visited homes, nursing homes and hospitals, ministered to fallen away Catholics, worked with the Catholic Food Pantry, sponsored food drives and blood drives, coordinated the RCIA program, comforted those who had lost a family member or close friend, served in a leadership role on several diocesan organizations, etc. Her ministry took her out of the office much of the time. During her 24 years in pastoral ministry in Cape Girardeau, she was likened to the Energizer Bunny whose energy never ran down.

She loved her family and enjoyed the time she was able to spend with them. She also delighted in fishing and frogging. She was creative, caring and compassionate towards the poor and those in need. For her Golden Jubilee in Cape Girardeau, parishioners placed a boat on the parish grounds and asked for donations that could be used for the food pantry. The boat was filled with food. Once a woman came and asked for pots and pans instead of food. She was told to return the next day and Sister Lucille gave her the pots and pans that she had in her convent home. She couldn't cook but was ingenious in providing meals for herself and those who visited her. She credited God, her life of prayer, her good health and the desire to help others with providing her with the strength to reach out to the poor and needy persons who came into her life.

May she now rejoice in receiving Jesus' invitation:

"Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world ... (for) whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers or sisters you do unto me." – Matthew 25

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND