

In Loving Memory

Sister Gloria Marie Foret



Birth
March 6, 1939

Baptism
March 19, 1939

Profession
July 30, 1959

Death
August 1, 2024

Burial
Chatawa 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 Gloria Marie Foret, 85, passed away peacefully on August 1, 2024, at St. Anthony's Gardens, Covington, Louisiana.

The third of four children was born to Angele (Haydel) and Wallis Foret in New Orleans on March 6, 1939. She was baptized at St. Alphonsus Church on March 19, 1939, and named Linda Catherine. With an older sister, Merrilee, older brother Eugene and younger brother Christopher, Linda enjoyed a happy family life.

Linda attended St. Mary's grade school and Redemptorist High School in New Orleans under the guidance of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). For many years, she had felt a desire to become a religious sister. When she told her parents, they advised her to wait until after graduation from high school.

Linda received the candidate's veil at St. Mary's Church on August 27, 1957. The next day, she and two companions traveled by train to St. Louis and entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa. She was received into the novitiate on July 29, 1958, and given the name Gloria Marie. She pronounced first vows on July 30, 1959, in St. Louis and final vows on July 30, 1965, in Dallas.

Sister Gloria Marie earned a bachelor's degree in art from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis in 1962 and a master's degree in early childhood education from Xavier University in New Orleans in 1976.

Sister Gloria Marie dedicated 50 years ministering in Catholic education for multiple elementary schools throughout the southern U.S. and internationally. She began her teaching career at St. Mary, Gainesville, Texas. After seven years, she was missioned to Immaculate Conception, Marrero, Louisiana and then to St. Alphonsus, Mc Comb, Mississippi.

She was then sent to teach at Our Lady of Lourdes, Mobile, Alabama. During her five years there, she spent one year as principal. She then returned to Immaculate Conception in Marrero. After four years, she was missioned to St. Gabriel in New Orleans.

continued

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In 1983, she spent one year as a teacher aide at Notre Dame of Dallas Special School in Dallas. The next year, she joined two other SSND in reopening the historic black school, St. Peter School, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

While in Arkansas, she experienced a call to volunteer to serve with SSND in Ghana, West Africa. She was involved in the construction of Mary Queen of Peace Primary School in Cape Coast and ministered there for an impactful 12 years. During that time, she was a valuable mentor and role model for the teachers. Her calm, patient and steady manner encouraged and supported them. A quiet and creative teacher, she endeared herself to the children, their parents and her co-workers. In 2007, with a heavy heart, she returned to the United States.

Following a year of renewal at St. Mary of the Pines, Chatawa, Mississippi, she was missioned as a teacher aide to Immaculate Conception, Rio Grande, Texas. Four years later, she returned to St. Mary of the Pines and ministered in community service. Along with the other sisters from Chatawa, she moved to St. Anthony's Gardens in Covington, Louisiana in 2019. She passed away peacefully in her sleep on August 1, 2024, two days after her 65th anniversary of religious profession.

Funeral services for Sister Gloria Marie were held on August 9, 2024, at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Visitation, a prayer service and sharing of memories preceded the celebration of the Mass of Resurrection with Rev. Mark Lomax as presider. Burial was in the Chatawa Cemetery, Chatawa. Relatives, friends, School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND Associates were in attendance. Sister Gloria Marie is survived by her brother Christopher, who lives in Kansas. She was preceded in death by her parents, Angele and Wallis Foret, her sister, Merrilee (Donald) Glancy and her brother, Eugene.

Sister Gloria Marie was an excellent primary teacher and delightful community member. She provided hundreds of children with a firm foundation on which to build their education. She was a kind, caring and generous person who treasured others as daughters and sons created in the image of God. May she now rejoice with her God and family members as she enters into eternal life.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND