

In Loving Memory

Sister Herman Marie Siebenmorgen



Birth
July 2, 1924

Baptism
July 2, 1924

Profession
August 3, 1949

Death
September 9, 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 Herman Marie Siebenmorgen, 100, passed away peacefully on September 9, 2024, at Trinity Trace Community Care Center in Covington, Louisiana.

The third of 12 children was born to Appolonia (Wewers) and Herman Siebenmorgen on July 2, 1924, in Morrison Bluff, Arkansas. She was baptized on the same day as her birth at Sts. Peter & Paul Church and named Crescence Agnes. When she was 1½ years old, the family moved to Conway, Arkansas. The family of 10 girls (including our Sister Dolores Marie) and two boys grew up living and working on the family farm. Two of Crescence's farm jobs included milking the cows and picking cotton. Of those early years she wrote, "Having experienced God's presence in creation on the farm working closely with my family, taking care of the plants and animals, I was given full responsibility for many jobs each day from the age of four to 22."

Crescence attended St. Joseph grade school and high school in Conway. The schools were staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). Following graduation from high school, she continued working on the farm to help her parents. During the next few years, she thought of entering the convent. She had a great love of Mary and chose to enter SSND, although a number of her relatives entered the Benedictines.

On September 21, 1946, she entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis. She was received into the novitiate on August 2, 1948, and given the name Herman Marie in honor of her father. She pronounced first vows on August 3, 1949, and final vows on August 3, 1955.

Sister Herman Marie received a bachelor's degree in English from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1956 and a master's degree in education from St. Louis University, St. Louis, in 1962.

As a Catholic educator in elementary schools for 52 years, Sister Herman Marie ministered in seven states and 20 schools. During this time, she served as principal for 17 years. Due to her frequent transfers, often to fill in for someone else, she was known as the "Arkansas Traveler."

Sister Herman Marie began her teaching career at St. Mary, Keokuk, Iowa, in 1949. She taught at St. Joseph, East St. Louis and St. Francis Solanus, Quincy, both in Illinois. She was a teacher at Sacred Heart, Eureka, Missouri, and teacher and principal at St. Charles Borromeo, St. Charles, Missouri.

In 1964, Sister Herman Marie was transferred to the newly-formed Dallas Province. She ministered in multiple communities across Texas, including Christ the King in Corpus Christi, St. Anthony in Longview, Notre Dame of Dallas Special School in Dallas, St. Mary in Gainesville and Our Lady of Perpetual

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister Herman Marie
Siebenmorgen*



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Help in Dallas. In Mississippi, she served at St. Therese in Jackson, St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa and Immaculate Conception in Laurel. In Alabama, she held the dual roles of teacher and principal for Our Lady of Lourdes in Mobile. In Louisiana, she served at St. Anthony, Baton Rouge, St. Joseph in Ponchatoula, Annunciation in Bogalusa, St. Gabriel in New Orleans, St. Mary in Natchitoches and St. Joseph in Jeanerette.

In 2001, she was transferred back to St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, and ministered in community service full time. She assisted wherever there was a need - in the gift shop, in the chapel, visiting the sick sisters, crafting items for the gift shop or however else she could help. Many of her crocheted works won top ribbon recognitions at the state fairs. Her role at St. Mary of the Pines evolved into a part-time position in 2013.

When the sisters moved from Chatawa in 2020, she was transferred to Trinity Trace Community Care Center in Covington, Louisiana. In July 2024, she celebrated her 100th birthday, as well as her 75th anniversary of religious profession. She passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of September 9, 2024.

Funeral services were held on September 20, 2024, at Most Holy Trinity Church in Covington. Visitation, a prayer service and sharing of memories preceded the celebration of the Mass of Resurrection. Family members, relatives, friends, SSND and SSND associates were in attendance. Burial was in the Chatawa Cemetery, Chatawa.

Sister Herman Marie is survived by her sisters, Sister Dolores Marie Siebenmorgen, SSND of Covington, Louisiana; Rose Nelson of Streamwood, Illinois; Bertha Gottsponer of Morrilton, Arkansas; Dolores Land of Conway, Arkansas and her brother Lawrence of Morrilton, Arkansas; many nieces, nephews, relatives, friends, School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND Associates.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Appolonia and Herman Siebenmorgen, her brother Gregory, her sisters Sister Brendan Siebenmorgen, OSB; Monica Siebenmorgen, Catherine Pinter, Teresa Siebenmorgen and Mary Ann Davis.

Sister Herman Marie possessed a sharp memory and loved telling stories of life growing up on the family farm. She was creatively gifted, witty and generous in serving wherever there was a need. May she now rejoice in her new life with her loved ones who have preceded her into eternal life and with her God whom she served so faithfully during her 100 years.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND