

In Loving Memory

Sister M. Carmelle Malerich



Birth
October 1, 1935

Baptism
October 20, 1935

Profession
July 17, 1955

Death
August 5, 2024

Burial
Good Counsel 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. Carmelle Malerich, 88, died Monday, August 5, 2024, at Benedictine Living Community in Shakopee, Minnesota.

On October 1, 1935, the third daughter and youngest child was born to Dr. Tony and Phyllis Malerich in Eitel Hospital, Minneapolis, and named Kathleen Alice. She joined her sisters, Mary and Anne, and her brother, Tony, Jr., in the Malerich family. At that time, the family lived in southeastern Minnesota, where Dr. Malerich practiced medicine in Caledonia. When Kathleen was two, the family moved to Shakopee.

Kathleen entered first grade at Mary's School in Shakopee, in 1941 with Sister Mary Louis Pihaly, a School Sister of Notre Dame (SSND), as her teacher. Sadly, Kathleen's mother died in October of that year. Kathleen remained at St. Mary's through grade two and then attended Belle Prairie Boarding School near Little Falls, Minnesota, for third grade. In the summer of 1944, the family moved to West St. Paul, Minnesota, and Kathleen's fourth grade year was spent at the Visitation Monastery School in St. Paul. She resumed her connection with SSND when she attended St. Matthew School in St. Paul for grades five through eight. After graduation in 1949, another boarding school, Good Counsel Academy in Mankato, Minnesota, provided the setting for Kathleen's high school education. She wrote later, "During this time whenever anyone asked me what I was going to be in the future, it was anything but a teacher or a sister. Late in my senior year, however, Mother Annunciata [Tanzer] accepted my application to the SSND candidature."

In September 1953, Kathleen entered the candidature and was received into the novitiate in July 1954. She pronounced first vows in July 1955, as Sister M. Carmelle. Throughout her high school and early years as an SSND, she was especially grateful for the influence of her music teacher, Sister Sylvia Tembreull. From 1955 to 1956, Sister Carmelle continued her education at St. Catherine's College (now University), St. Paul while living with other members of her class in St. Albertus Hall, a house of studies for young sisters.

Sister Carmelle's first teaching assignment took her to St. Wenceslaus in Dickinson, North Dakota. She remembered, "It seems like I just ran from one thing to another that year. I taught fifth and sixth grades and managed two choirs, church work and about fourteen music lessons." The next year, 1957, she moved to Bismarck, North Dakota, where she taught at the newly opened St. Anne's School until 1960. Sister Carmelle, whose educational ministry included various aspects of both school and parish music, also taught at St. Mary, Madelia, Minnesota; St. Gertrude High School, Raleigh, North Dakota; St. Peter, Canby, Minnesota; St. Mary, New England, North Dakota; Fitzgerald Middle School, Mankato, Minnesota; and Sacred Heart, St. Paul. Sister Carmelle earned a bachelor's in education from Mount Mary College (now University) in Milwaukee; a master's in music education from Mankato State University in Mankato; and a master's in social work from Radford University in Radford, Virginia.

From 1976 through 1979, Sister Carmelle shared her musical abilities with sisters at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato, serving as liturgist and part-time instructor for both student sisters and postulants. The Johnson & Son Organ

continued

In Loving Memory



*Sister M. Carmelle
Malerich*



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had recently been installed, and as a member of the Province Fine Arts Committee, she helped coordinate concerts in those early years.

From 1980 through 1986, Sister Carmelle was the parish liturgist and choir director at St. Joseph Parish, Red Wing, Minnesota. She concluded her parish liturgist service with six years at All Saints Parish in Lakeville, Minnesota.

In 1992, Sister Carmelle felt it was time to move on and responded to an opening printed in an SSND newsletter for VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America). She applied for a VISTA position in Bland County, Virginia. Bland County had formed a corporation called CARE (Creative Adult Reading Enrichment) and needed a director. In a newspaper article, she described her work: "My challenge is to empower the community – to help the members of the community help themselves. I will be finding students who read at fourth grade level or below and matching them with volunteer tutors." She also was in charge of community awareness, tutor training and program development. This three-year commitment, in her words, "evolved to 20 years, expanding and contracting to better fit the needs of the people. During the years, I worked my way through a masters of social work degree from Radford University (in Radford, Virginia), became a caseworker in Crossroads Homeless Shelter, worked at District III Home Services, evaluated/interviewed students for public schools and directed various activities at the Wolf Creek Indian Village and Museum." Throughout those 20 years, two ongoing activities were especially important to her – directing the choir at St. Mary's Parish in Wytheville, Virginia, and the Creative Literacy Program. She found support through meeting regularly with a group of sisters and priests who ministered in Southwest Virginia. Sister Carmelle summarized her years in Virginia as, "The people of Bland County taught me something new every day and became part of my heart."

Sister Carmelle brought closure to her Appalachian ministry in August 2012 and moved to Jordan, Minnesota, where she resided in the same apartment fourplex as Sisters Mary Tacheny and Lalande Hennen. She joined the Jordan Historical Society and was an active presence in St. John the Baptist Parish. Sister Carmelle remained in Jordan until 2020, when she moved to Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato. In fall 2022, she relocated to Shakopee with other SSND.

Throughout her many years of varied ministries, gratitude was an evident aspect of her personality. She concluded her autobiography by writing, "Life has been a wonderful ride with our God and with many of God's people, changing me in many ways in the process. I am most grateful for all the opportunities I have been given all my life." In a 2015 Jubilee reflection she wrote, "Every place gave me a gift to learn, be among and love the poor, affluent, all ages – everyone. What came of it is a gift of gratitude."

The funeral mass for Sister Carmelle was held August 9, in the Windermere Chapel, Shakopee, with Father John Kunz as presider. Visitation and sharing of memories preceded the Liturgy. Burial in the Good Counsel cemetery in Mankato will follow at a later date.

Sister Carmelle is survived by her brother, Dr. Joseph (Tony) Malerich, Jr., and his wife Marge, nieces and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND associates. She was preceded in death by her parents, Dr. Joseph (Tony), Sr. and Phyllis (Coles) Malerich, and her sisters, Mary Malerich and Sister Anne Malerich, OSB.

By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND