

In Loving Memory

Sister Margaret (Francis Mary) Berghold



Birth
October 5, 1923

Baptism
October 7, 1923

Profession
July 28, 1944

Death
July 29, 2024

Burial
Body donated to St. Louis
University School of Medicine

*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 Margaret Berghold, formerly known as Francis Mary, 100, passed away peacefully at Anna House, The Sarah Community, in Bridgeton, Missouri on July 29, 2024.

The youngest of three girls, she was born to Marie (Ackermann) and Frank Berghold on October 5, 1923, in St. Louis. She was baptized on October 7, 1923, at St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish in St. Louis and named Margaret Marcella. During her childhood, the family moved several times, but remained within the St. Louis area.

Margaret attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help Grade School which was staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). When she was in the eighth grade, she visited Sancta Maria in Ripa and the desire to become a sister began to emerge within her. She attended St. Alphonsus (Rock) High School which was also staffed by SSND.

Margaret entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa on August 27, 1941. She was received into the novitiate on July 27, 1943, and given the name Francis Mary. She professed first vows on July 28, 1944, and final vows on July 28, 1950. Later she returned to her baptismal name.

Sister Margaret received a bachelor's degree in history from the former LeClerc College, Belleville, Illinois in 1949 and a master's degree in education from St. Louis University, St. Louis, in 1956.

Following profession, she taught elementary children at St. Peter Cathedral, Belleville, Illinois (1944-1949). From there, she would go on to teach secondary students for some 18 years. In Illinois, she taught at St. Joseph, Cairo (1950-1952) and the Academy of Notre Dame in Belleville (1966-1967). In Missouri, she taught at Rosati-Kain High School (1949-1950) and her own alma mater, St. Alphonsus (Rock) High School (1952-1960). In Louisiana, she taught at Sacred Heart in New Orleans (1960-1966). Starting in 1967, she was a faculty member in the education department of the former Notre Dame College, until its closing in 1977.

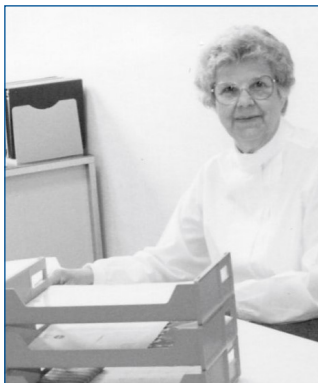
Following the conclusion of her work at Notre Dame College and a period of study and supervision, Sister Margaret became a staff member at the SSND Center of Spiritual Development located at Notre Dame Hall on the St.

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Louis University campus (1978-1985). Staff members there offered spiritual guidance and directed retreats and retreat weekends. The Center of Spiritual Development was discontinued in 1985.

Sister Margaret then became engaged in a variety of ministries in the St. Louis area. She was a secretary for the Cardinal Ritter Institute; receptionist for Our Lady of Life Apartments; an Adult Basic Education/GED teacher for the public school system and teacher at various centers. She was a secretary for two former St. Louis Provincial Councils in the years 1987-1995. After three years of community service at Sancta Maria in Ripa, she became a member of the province staff and did volunteer clerical work for various province offices at the former St. Louis Motherhouse (1999-2007).

From 2007 until her move to Veronica House, The Sarah Community, in 2018, she continued to provide community service at Sancta Maria in Ripa. As her health declined, she was transferred to Anna House. She passed away peacefully on the morning of July 29, 2024, at Anna House, while staff members and a Sister were praying with her. It was the day after the anniversary of her 80th profession of first vows. She chose to donate her body to St. Louis University School of Medicine.

A prayer service was held at The Sarah Community on August 15, 2024. Memorial services were held at Theresa Center, Sancta Maria in Ripa, on August 16, 2024. Sharing of memories preceded the celebration of the Mass of Resurrection with Rev. Michael Joyce, CM as presider. Relatives, friends, SSNDs and SSND associates were in attendance.

Sister Margaret was preceded in death by her parents, Marie and Frank Berghold, her sisters Marie Lemon and Dorothy (Herb) Meredith. She is survived by nieces, nephews, friends, School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND associates.

Sister Margaret was a cheerful, fun-loving and delightful community member who enjoyed reading, music, playing cards and games, small social gatherings and short trips with friends. She was deeply devoted to her family and had a special love for dogs. Her varied ministries during her 100 years of life and 80 years of religious profession are a witness to her dedication and commitment to bring the Good News of Jesus to others as an SSND educator.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND

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