

In Loving Memory

Sister Anastasia Wehner



Birth
June 21, 1933

Baptism
July 2, 1933

Profession
July 31, 1953

Death
May 31, 2024

Burial
Sancta Maria in Ripa
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 Anastasia Wehner, 90, died peacefully at Anna House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri, in the late afternoon of May 31, 2024.

The oldest of three girls, she was born to Elizabeth (Zuschrott) and Charles Wehner on June 21, 1933, in St. Louis. She was baptized at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on July 2, 1933, and named Mary Elizabeth. Three years later, her three-month-old little sister, Elizabeth, contracted pneumonia and died. Mary grew up with her sister, Therese Ann.

Mary attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in St. Louis where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). In the eighth grade, she was a companion to one of the sisters who visited the Aspiranture. Mary was so impressed with the girls and the surroundings that she asked her parents for approval to enter SSND. They told her they would be happy to give their consent after she graduated from high school. Mary enrolled at St. Alphonsus (Rock) High School, St. Louis, where she again had School Sisters of Notre Dame as teachers.

Mary entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa on August 31, 1950. In her second year of candidature, she was missioned to St. Mary, Keokuk, Iowa, where she taught third and fourth grades. She was received into the novitiate on July 29, 1952, and given the name Mary Anastasia. She professed her first vows on July 31, 1953, and final vows on July 31, 1959.

She received a bachelor's degree in history from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis, in 1959 and a master's degree in theology from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, in 1967.

Sister Anastasia taught elementary children for 16 years at Blessed Sacrament, Belleville, Illinois and St. Bernadette and St. Dominic Savio, St. Louis. In 1969, she took on the dual role of principal and teacher at St. Joseph, Farmington, Missouri, as well as coordinator of religious education in some of the nearby smaller parishes.

Five years later, she was asked to serve in the Diocesan Religious Education Office for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Missouri. In this assignment as associate director and then as director, she realized that the "job seeking skills" were not readily possessed by those pursuing ministry positions. She shared this information with her SSND provincial councilor. In 1981, she was asked to develop an office of personnel services for the former St. Louis Province to assist sisters in their ministry assignments. During this time, she also served as the co-director of the newly established Caroline Hall Conference and Retreat Center at Sancta Maria in Ripa.

continued

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Starting in 1989, Sister Anastasia began a 19-year ministry as director of religious education at St. Joseph Parish, Marion, Illinois. Here she developed her skills in parish leadership, implemented programs into parish life, worked with a varied staff and ministered to groups of all ages, so as to serve their many needs.

In 2008, she moved to Theresa Center, and after a sabbatical, worked in the resource development office where she was the donor relations coordinator. In 2010, she was appointed hospitality coordinator at Sancta Maria in Ripa. As her health needs required more assistance, she was transferred to Veronica House, The Sarah Community, in June 2020. She was missioned to Anna House in December 2021. She died peacefully in her room in the late afternoon of May 31, 2024.

A prayer service was held at The Sarah Community on June 10, 2024. The following morning, the funeral services were held at Theresa Center in Ripa. Visitation, reading of her biography and sharing of memories preceded the celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial. Rev. Cliff Hasler, M.S. was the presider. Relatives, friends, SSND and SSND Associates attended the services. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery.

Sister Anastasia is survived by her sister, Therese Jacobi, nieces and nephews and her extended family. She was preceded in death by her parents, Elizabeth and Charles Wehner, and her sister, Elizabeth.

Sister Anastasia's life of ministry illustrated her many gifts of leadership. She was understanding, competent and compassionate and shared her gifts with others. She was a highly organized person, which served her well in her various ministries. She creatively developed numerous programs for the teachers and students as the director of religious education. She was a gracious and hospitable person, striving to accommodate the numerous requests she received as hospitality coordinator at Sancta Maria in Ripa.

Prior to her transfer to Veronica House, she was a member of the Visitation Community at Sancta Maria in Ripa. She returned home to God and to Mary on the feast of the Visitation. May she now rejoice in her new life with her God, with Mary and her family members who have preceded her into eternal life.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND