

In Loving Memory

Sister Richardé Marie Wolf



Birth
February 5, 1949

Baptism
February 20, 1949

Profession
August 9, 1970

Death
June 12, 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 Richardé Marie Wolf, 75, died June 12, 2024, at Benedictine Living Community in Shakopee, Minnesota. Sisters and friends had been keeping vigil with her in the days before her death.

Richard and Mary Wolf of Dickinson, North Dakota, welcomed their second daughter, whom they named Sandra Louise, on February 5, 1949. Sandra was baptized two weeks later at the Church of St. Patrick in Dickinson. Four more daughters completed the family. At age 6, Sandy was enrolled in first grade at St. Patrick's School in Dickinson, where she was taught by Sisters of St. Benedict. She commented in her autobiography, "My parents tried to talk me into going to school. I recall that I didn't like the idea but it proved to be okay after the first couple days. I haven't really changed my pattern. I still fear the new challenges, but in the end, I am able to come through pretty well."

The Wolf family valued Catholic education for their daughters, and all of them attended St. Patrick's, followed by Trinity High School in Dickinson, which was staffed by School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). Sandy was a freshman at Trinity High School in 1963, and later wrote, "Because of the sisters' love for their students I was able to learn more about them. The life of a sister always impressed me, but it wasn't until my junior year that I knew Christ was calling me."

Sandy entered the postulate in September 1967, and spent the year learning about SSND life and taking college classes in preparation for her teaching ministry. On July 16, 1968, she was received into the novitiate and given the name Richardé Marie, taken from her parents' names. After two years in the novitiate, she learned in the summer of 1970 that her first teaching experience would be in a fourth-grade classroom in New Market, Minnesota, part of the Lonsdale-New Market-Veseli Catholic School consolidation.

Following profession on August 9, 1970, Sister Richardé Marie moved to Lonsdale, Minnesota, where she lived for four years while teaching in New Market. In 1974, she returned to her home state of North Dakota and taught at St. Benedict School, Strasburg, until 1979. She completed her bachelor's degree from Mount Mary College (now University), Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1975. She taught intermediate grades at St. Michael School, Prior Lake, Minnesota, from 1979 until 1981.

Sister Richardé Marie was invited to return to St. Benedict in Strasburg in 1981 as the principal and a teacher, a position she held until 1987. She was recognized by the pastor for her "deep commitment to the school," which was demonstrated by her "untiring work as principal and teacher." She continued her administration ministry at St. Patrick in Dickinson from 1987 until 1999. She earned a master's in education from the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota, in 1994. Also in 1994, she celebrated her Silver Jubilee in her home parish of St. Patrick, where she was serving as principal.

continued

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*Sister Richardé Marie
Wolf*



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**School Sisters
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Central Pacific Province

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In 1999, Sister Richardé Marie relocated to northwestern Minnesota, taking on the role of principal and faith formation director at St. Joseph School and Parish in Red Lake Falls. Today's Catholic Teacher in 2002 named St. Joseph School as a recipient of the "Catholic Schools for Tomorrow Award for Innovations in Technology." It was one of 12 schools nationwide to receive this designation. Sister Richardé Marie remained at St. Joseph until 2004, when she moved to Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Glendale, Arizona. She initially taught fourth graders and then first graders and "welcomed the diversity and treasured the gifts and cultural differences."

Sister Richardé Marie expanded her diverse cultural experiences in 2009, when she became principal at St. Bernard Indian Mission School in Fort Yates on the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota. She introduced herself to the community in this way, "Coming home to North Dakota and saying yes to the principal's position is both a call and a commitment." She served as principal until 2013 and continued as a teacher there for one more year.

Following a year's sabbatical, Sister Richardé Marie joined the staff of the Good Counsel Learning Center in Mankato, Minnesota, in 2015. Here she added more cultural diversity to her educational ministry as she worked with East African immigrants who were Learning Center students. In 2012, the center had launched a Refugee Outreach Program, which addressed the needs of refugee women who lacked transportation or childcare opportunities and so were unable to come to Good Counsel for classes. Sister Richardé Marie became coordinator of this program in 2016. She worked with the tutors who went into the students' homes and connected with women seeking an education. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic brought unexpected closure to this program in early 2020.

Sister Richardé Marie expressed her gratitude in a Golden Jubilee reflection that same year: "In these 50 years as a School Sister of Notre Dame, I was able to use my God-given gifts in the field of education. I am grateful to the Benedictine Sisters and the School Sisters of Notre Dame for the education I received and the encouragement given to me in my ministry."

Sister Richardé Marie had a wide field of interests that included biking, cooking and baking, and staying current with educational trends. She assisted at the annual Good Counsel Craft Fair, not by being a crafter, but by driving one of the golf carts that transported visitors from the distant parking lots. In later years, she helped coordinate the Craft Fair's Garage Sale. She remained close to her family, enjoying visits with her sisters and their families. In 2022, she moved with other School Sisters of Notre Dame to Benedictine Living Community in Shakopee.

The funeral Mass for Sister Richardé Marie was held Tuesday, June 18, in the Windermere chapel, with Father John Kunz as presider. Sharing of memories preceded the liturgy. Burial in the Good Counsel cemetery in Mankato will follow at a later date. She is survived by her five sisters, Linda Binek, Janice (Dan) Hagen, Nancy (Del) Kussy, Charlene (Leo) Hofer, and Karen (John) Ulrich, nieces and nephews and her sisters in community, the School Sisters of Notre Dame and SSND Associates. She was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Mary (Emmil) Wolf and a brother-in-law, Arnie Binek.

By Sister Mary Kay Ash, SSND