

In Loving Memory

Sister M. Richardine Rempe



Birth
May 12, 1938

Baptism
May 14, 1938

Profession
August 3, 1956

Death
December 10, 2024

Burial
Resurrection Cemetery,
Rosemead, California

*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. Richardine Rempe, 86, passed away peacefully in La Mirada, California, on December 10, 2024, around 1:40 a.m., with School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) community members at her bedside.

The third oldest of six children, she was born to Hilda (Ostdiek) and Richard Rempe on May 12, 1938. The little girl was born at home on the family farm in Lawrence, Nebraska. She was baptized on May 14, 1938, at St. Stephen Church in Lawrence, and named Luella Rose. Three brothers and two sisters would complete the Rempe family.

The family would move from the farm to the city of Lawrence. When she was five years old, Luella began her education at Sacred Heart School, Lawrence, which was staffed by SSND. As a young teenager, she began doing the shopping for the sisters and would deliver their daily mail to them. This contact with the sisters enabled her to observe how women consecrated to God lived happily together. After her eighth grade graduation, she told the sisters that she wanted to become one of them.

Luella's parents consented to her entrance into the aspiranture at Sancta Maria in Ripa, St. Louis, for her high school education. By spending a summer studying at Notre Dame in nearby Quincy, Illinois, Luella was able to finish the requirements for high school graduation in just three years.

Luella received the candidate bonnet at her home parish on August 31, 1954. She was received into the novitiate on August 2, 1955, and given the name Mary Richardine in honor of her father. She professed first vows on August 3, 1956, and final vows on August 3, 1962.

Sister Richardine earned a bachelor's degree in history from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1964 and a master's degree in elementary education from Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois, in 1971.

During her 57 years of ministering in Catholic education, Sister Richardine spent 19 years teaching primary grades at St. Anthony, Knoxville, Iowa (1956-1967); St. Anthony, Effingham, Illinois (1967-1970) and St. Hilary, Pico Rivera, California (1983-1988).

Sister Richardine was an elementary principal for 38 years, serving at St. Anthony, Effingham, Illinois (1970-1977); St. Marianne de Paredes (1977-1983) and St. Hilary, Pico Rivera, California (1988-2013).

With the conclusion of her official ministries in education in 2013, she remained in California, serving as a volunteer for various places in Los Angeles.

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister M. Richardine Rempe



In 2001, she was recognized as the “Educational Enrichment” honoree for the "I am Pico Rivera" program. The program honors individuals who exemplify the best of community service and volunteerism.

After surgery in 2020, Sister Richardine moved to the Mirada Hills Rehabilitation and Convalescent Hospital, now Sunny Hills Post-Acute, in La Mirada, California. She entered into hospice care on December 6, 2024. She died peacefully in the early morning of December 10, 2024, with Sister Gilda Bruce and associate Anna Nuckles praying at her bedside.

A funeral mass was celebrated at St. Marianne de Paredes in Pico Rivera, California, on January 20, 2025. Instead of a viewing, there was a blessing of the Holy Family statue dedicated in gratitude to St. Marianne School and the School Sisters of Notre Dame for the gift of Catholic education. Burial was in Resurrection Cemetery, Rosemead (Los Angeles) California, on January 21, 2025.

Sister Richardine is survived by her sister, Rosemary Martin of Florida and her brother, Vernon of Nebraska, classmates, friends and SSND members in community and SSND associates. She was preceded in death by her parents, Hilda and Richard Rempe, her sister Geraldine Kroening, and her brothers Richard and Rev. Mel Rempe.

Sister Richardine was an excellent and beloved teacher and principal. She touched the lives of numerous children and their families during her years of ministering in Catholic education. May she now rejoice in her new life with her God and with her family members who have entered eternal life before her.

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND

To make a memorial gift,
please visit our secure
online donation page
www.ssndcentralpacific.org/donate



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world
through education