

# *In Loving Memory*

## Sister Ruth (Mary Fourier) Chausse



**Birth**  
September 17, 1942

**Baptism**  
October 4, 1942

**Profession**  
July 30, 1962

**Death**  
June 26, 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 Ruth (formerly known as Mary Fourier) Chausse, 81, passed away peacefully in the early afternoon of June 26, 2024, at Mary Queen and Mother Center in St. Louis.

The fourth of seven children was born to Mildred (Boehler) and Donald Chausse at St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield, Illinois, on September 17, 1942. She was baptized at St. Louis Church, Nokomis, Illinois, on October 4, 1942, and named Ruth Cecilia. The two boys and five girls grew up assisting their parents on the family farm in Nokomis. This relationship with the Earth was an important constant in her life and that of her family.

Ruth attended St. Louis Catholic School, which was staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND). In the seventh grade, she began to consider becoming a sister. Following a visit from Mother Theodosia Bettels, Provincial of the former St. Louis Province, she applied to enter the Aspiranture at Sancta Maria in Ripa for her high school education and graduated from Notre Dame High School.

Ruth entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa on August 25, 1960. She was received into the novitiate on July 29, 1961, and given the name Mary Fourier. She professed first vows on July 30, 1962, and final vows on July 30, 1967. She would later return to her baptismal name.

Sister Ruth earned a bachelor's degree in American Studies from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, in 1964, and a master's degree in elementary education from the State College of Arkansas, (now University of Central Arkansas), Conway, Arkansas in 1972.

Sister Ruth taught elementary children for 18 years throughout Missouri and Illinois, including: Our Lady, Queen of Peace, House Springs, Missouri; St. Liborius, St. Louis; St. Francis Borgia, Washington, Missouri; St. Joseph, East St. Louis, Illinois; St. Joseph, Farmington, Missouri; and St. James, Millstadt, Illinois. Additionally, she was a principal for 32 years at: St. Joseph, East St. Louis; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Louis; St. Joseph, Farmington; St. Peter Cathedral, Belleville, Illinois; St. Theresa of Avila, Salem, Illinois and St. Louis, Nokomis.

Sister Ruth spent her last 10 years in Catholic education as the principal at her elementary school in Nokomis while caring for her mother until her death. Her

*continued*

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*Sister Ruth Chausse  
(Mary Fourier)*



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**School Sisters  
of Notre Dame**  
*Central Pacific Province*

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through education

gift of leadership and willing service was an example to family members and to the Nokomis community.

In 2012, Sister Ruth returned to St. Louis and volunteered at Maria Center on the Sancta Maria in Ripa campus. She also began a ministry to the elderly with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Ministries in St. Louis. She served as a caregiver with Assistance Home Care in St. Charles, Missouri, for two years and then for various places in the St. Louis area for one year. For an additional three years, she worked with Good Samaritan Senior Care in St. Louis.

Sister Ruth worked in volunteer services at Theresa Center for two years prior to her moving to Veronica House, The Sarah Community, Bridgeton, Missouri, in 2019. In May 2020, she was missioned to Mother of Perpetual Help Residence. As her health declined, she was transferred to Mary Queen and Mother Center, in December 2023. She was placed on hospice in March 2024 and passed away peacefully in the early afternoon of June 26, 2024.

Funeral services were held at Theresa Center on July 1, 2024. Visitation, reading of her biography and sharing of memories preceded the celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial with Rev. Dennis Meyer, M.S. as president. Many family members, classmates, sisters, SSND Associates and friends were in attendance. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery.

She is survived by her brother Donald (Rita) and her sisters, Jeanene (Marion) Dahler and Patricia Garrett, nieces, nephews and extended family members. She was preceded in death by her parents, Mildred and Donald Chausse, her brother Gerald (Dianna) and her sisters Jeanette (Loren) Trost and Mary (Edward) Schafer.

Sister Ruth is remembered as a kind, dedicated, compassionate and caring person. She was always ready to help wherever needed and generous with her time and gifts. She was a competent and organized administrator whose primary focus was always the children under her care.

Sister Ruth lived her childhood dream “to work with children and see them grow and develop, both academically and spiritually.” As she now enters eternal life, may she be received by her loving God who welcomed the little children.

*By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND*