



**In death,
we say our ultimate yes
to our Creator.
Trusting in God's power
to bring us to fulfillment of life,
we see death as an act of worship:
in dying, we proclaim God, God;
and ourselves, creatures.**

**Although in grief,
the community gratefully affirms this,
our final earthly proclamation
of the good news...
In hope and peace,
we enter into the joy of the Lord!**

You Are Sent #47



Sister Marie Carolyn Rothermich

Born
November 8, 1931

Professed
August 2, 1954

Ministry
**elementary (primary) educator and
community service ~
Illinois, Missouri**

Died
October 1, 2007



**School Sisters of Notre Dame
of St. Louis**

During her retreat in 1824, Blessed Theresa wrote, “Those who suffer patiently and in a Christian manner glorify God, for they reveal God’s power in weakness.”[#3] This insight describes the adult life of S. Marie Carolyn Rothermich.

On November 8, 1931, the seventh child was born to Caroline [Brockgreitens] and August Rothermich in St. Charles, MO. A week later, November 15, she was baptized at St. Peter’s Church and given the name Kathleen Cecilia. Three older brothers and three sisters welcomed her into the Rothermich home. Two years later another brother was born, and the eight children enjoyed a happy home life with their parents.

Kathleen attended St. Peter Grade and High School where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. After high school graduation, she was employed in several positions. During this time, she thought of becoming a sister and prayed to the Blessed Mother to show her the way. Her parents were overjoyed to hear her request.

Kathleen entered the candidature at Ripa on August 30, 1951. During her first year, she struggled with homesickness as she missed her family greatly. This, however, vanished during her second year when she taught 53 second graders at Holy Angels, East St. Louis, IL. Kathleen was received into the novitiate on August 1, 1953 and given the name Marie Carolyn in honor of her mother. She professed first vows on August 2, 1954 and final vows on August 2, 1960.

For 28 years, S. Marie Carolyn taught primary children at: Blessed Sacrament, Hannibal, MO; St. Stephen, Caseyville, IL; St. Henry, Belleville, IL; St. Joseph, East St. Louis, IL; and All Souls, Overland, MO.



Early in her religious life, she embraced the calling of physical suffering that God extended to her: migraine headaches, surgeries, amputations, etc. She continued to minister in the classroom until her health would no longer allow her to do so. At the age of 51, she retired to the motherhouse, performing community service and assisting the local leaders wherever possible.



In November 1998 she was missioned to Cori Manor in Fenton, MO. She was among the first sisters to be transferred to Anna House in January 1999. Although her physical limitations continued to challenge her, she remained cheerful and pleasant, going out of her way to greet people when her energy allowed. In July 2007, her second leg was amputated. She died peacefully at Anna House on October 1, 2007, around 12:20 a.m. from congested heart failure as a sister prayed with her.

A wake/vigil service was held at Anna House and the motherhouse on October 3. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with burial in the motherhouse cemetery. She is survived by three brothers: Ollie and Harold of St. Charles and Carl of O’Fallon, MO; and a sister, Florence Boschert of St. Charles, MO. Relatives, friends, and sisters came for the funeral services.

A gifted primary educator, Sister Marie Carolyn was loved by her little ones and their parents. Many were inspired by her gracious acceptance of the sufferings she endured so uncomplainingly and cheerfully. May she now rejoice in the fullness of life, free from pain and limitations, as she receives the eternal reward promised by God!