

Sister Bernadette Kleine, C.PP.S.

Born: July 11, 1923

Professed: August 10, 1943

Entered into Life: November 18, 2018

Verse on her memorial card:

“You are my inheritance, O Lord.” (Psalm 16)



November 19, 2018

Dear Sisters,

Quietly she lived. Quietly she died. Our Sister Bernadette (Charitas) Kleine slipped peacefully from this life around 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 18, 2018. The verse she chose for her memorial card – *You are my inheritance, O Lord (Ps 16)* – she now experiences in its fullness.

Born on July 11, 1923, to Egon and Mary (Zink) Kleine, Sister Bernadette was the third of eight children, four boys and four girls. She grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, in the midst of this loving family. She remained very close to her family, and wrote letters to each family member on special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries. One of her nieces who came for Sister Bernadette’s 75th jubilee last summer recalled how greatly these letters were treasured.

Sister Bernadette entered the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood in 1940 and professed her first vows on August 10, 1943. She completed a bachelor’s degree in education from Quincy University in 1957.

Sister Bernadette taught primary grades. She used to say that the very best time of her life was when she was teaching little children. She loved her students, and was loved by them. Some time ago she shared with me a letter from one of her former students and asked that it be included in her memorial letter. The letter said in part, “I still remember how much fun first grade was: learning the alphabet, the ‘C’ was a cookie with a bite out of it. I also remember how worried we were about you when you had some teeth removed. Yes, teachers like you do shape lives.” The student went on to say that she taught a Reading Disabilities class in high school for 15 years, inspired by the love of reading that Sister Bernadette instilled.

In Missouri, Sister Bernadette taught at St. Stephen Protomartyr, Holy Family, St. Elizabeth Academy, and St. George in St. Louis; St. Brendan, Mexico; St. Joseph, Martinsburg; Sacred Heart, Florissant; and Sacred Heart, Ozora. She also spent 17 years teaching in her home state of Nebraska at St. Joseph in Omaha and St. James in Crete.

Since 1994 she engaged in volunteer ministries and the ministries of prayer and presence, first at St. Monica in Creve Coeur and then in O'Fallon.

Any interaction with Sister Bernadette made it easy to understand why she was so beloved by her students. Always positive, always grateful, always concerned about the other. It was a joy to visit with her at Abbey Senior Health. Her beautiful smile and sincere words of welcome added joy to any visitor's day. As she grew weaker, she would admit at times that she was not feeling up to visitors, but nonetheless, she always said, "Thank you for coming."

Sister Bernadette's body will return to St. Joseph Chapel at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 23, 2018, and her wake will be from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. with a Prayer Service of Thanksgiving at 7:00 p.m. Her wake will continue Saturday, November 24, 2018 from 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Her funeral Mass, also in St. Joseph Chapel, will be at 11:00 a.m.

Never one to call attention to herself, Sister Bernadette requested that there be no sharing of memories at her wake.

Sister Bernadette is survived by her sisters, Mary Ann Kramolisch, Barbara Kingston, and Franny Skryja and sisters-in-law Betty and Dorene Kleine. Let us keep them and all of her nieces and nephews in prayer at this time of loss. Sister Bernadette was preceded in death by her four brothers, George, Philip, Donald and Edward. She found the loss of her brother, Edward, particularly difficult since he was the last of her brothers. Now she is reunited with them and with her aunts and our Sisters, Sister Lucina Zink, Sisters Marie and Priscilla Kleine.

As Sister Bernadette became more frail, she was waiting for Jesus to call her home. After the death of one of our Sisters, she would say, "Maybe I will be next." Now her turn has come; free from all worry and anxiety, and joyously reunited with her family members, she now enjoys the inheritance she awaited.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Janice Bader". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Sr. Janice Bader