

Sister Marilyn Schneider, C.PP.S.

Born: July 23, 1942

Professed: August 10, 1963

Entered into Life: November 5, 2018

Verse on her memorial card:

“Lord, I will sing of your love forever.” (Psalm 89:1)

November 8, 2018

Dear Sisters,



Great sadness marks the sudden and tragic death of our Sister Marilyn Schneider. On Sunday, November 4, as she was driving to an organ concert at the St. Louis Cathedral, Marilyn was involved in an accident. Many details are unknown, but Marilyn sustained extensive injuries which took her life around 3:45 p.m. on Monday, November 5, 2018. Members of her family and of our community were with her throughout her time in the hospital, and they gently sang her home as she took her final breaths.

Sister Marilyn (Mary Paul) Schneider was born on July 23, 1942, to Lawrence and Marie (Wilmesmeier) Schneider. She was the second of five children and the only girl in the family. Growing up surrounded by brothers may have contributed to her ability to tease and be teased.

Marilyn became a novice in 1961 and professed first vows on August 10, 1963. During the novitiate some of her classmates teasingly called her “Mother Marilyn.” She always took care of every person and every detail. She was the class organizer and planner, and for the past fifty-five years, she was the one to call the class together for reunions.

With a master’s degree in music from Washington University, music was central to Sister Marilyn’s life. While she played piano and violin as well as other instruments, she loved the organ. This was evidenced by the confidence with which she played even complex classical pieces, including one of her favorites, J.S. Bach’s *Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor*.

Sister Marilyn taught elementary school at St. Lawrence the Martyr, Bridgeton, MO; St. Louis, Louisville, CO; Assumption, O’Fallon, MO; and St. Patrick, Wentzville, MO. She also taught at the secondary and college levels at St. John the Baptist and St. Elizabeth Academy, St. Louis; and St. Mary’s Academy and College, O’Fallon. In addition, she served our community as a formation directress, motherhouse organist, and motherhouse local coordinator. Since 1999 she served as the Director of Music at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Perryville, MO.

Sister Marilyn spent twenty years at St. Elizabeth Academy and eighteen years at St. Vincent in Perryville. In her early years at SEA she worked with Sister Beatrice Marie, and when Sister Bea retired, Marilyn became the director of the music department. In 2004, she received the first “Sr. Bea” Award for excellence in music. At Perryville, Marilyn did everything that was musical from directing three choirs to teaching music at St. Vincent High School to playing for liturgies to directing the St. Vincent Variety Show to recording two CDs with the choir.

The programs from the concerts, plays, variety shows and recitals for which she was a director or a performer fill a 3-inch folder in our archives. Those represent only a few of the many ways in which she brought joy and led others in praise of God through her music. When asked what she did, she often responded with her characteristic and somewhat mischievous smile, “I sing and play all day.”

Because of health concerns, Sister Marilyn resigned from her position as parish music director in 2017. After some time away, which included a hip replacement and an emergency appendectomy, Marilyn returned to Perryville. She was again becoming very involved in the life of the parish and of the city through her volunteer activities. When I spoke with her a few weeks ago, she told me that she was feeling much better, that her energy was returning, and that she was enjoying life. How heartbreaking that her life was cut short, and yet how “Marilyn” it was that even the circumstances surrounding her death involved music.

Sister Marilyn’s body will return to St. Joseph Chapel at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, and her wake will be from 3 – 8 p.m., with a Prayer Service of Thanksgiving at 7 p.m. Her wake will continue Thursday, November 15, 2018, from 9 – 10:15 a.m. with the Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m., all in St. Joseph Chapel. A memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Perryville at 7 p.m. on Monday, November 19, 2018.

Sister Marilyn is survived by her brothers and sisters-in-law, Eugene and Kathy; Lawrence; Norbert and Ann Marie; Paul and Kathy. She also leaves behind nieces, nephews and grand-nieces and nephews. Please keep her family close in prayer as this is the third tragic loss they have suffered over recent months.

Marilyn brought joy, care and beauty to so many through her music, her smile and her sense of humor. Let us take comfort in trusting the truth of the quote she chose for her memorial card, “Lord, I will sing of your love forever” (*Psalms 89:1*). Let’s picture her singing with (or perhaps directing) the choirs of angels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Janice Bader".

Sr. Janice Bader