

Sister Joan Schnorbus, C.PP.S.

Born: September 22, 1929

Professed: August 10, 1951

Entered into Life: June 9, 2018

Verse on her memorial card:

**“My soul clings fast to you; your right
hand upholds me.” (Psalm 63:8)**



June 11, 2018

Dear Sisters,

On Saturday, June 9, 2018, Sister Joan Schnorbus began her day as she began every day – with a swim. As a Villa Theresa lay resident left for the locker room, the two exchanged well wishes for the day. Minutes later, Sister Joan was found unresponsive in the pool. Despite the efforts of first responders, Sister Joan was pronounced dead at 6:50 a.m. An avid swimmer, walker and biker (in earlier years), Sister Joan died doing something she loved.

Along with her profession cross, Sister Joan always wore a Marian medal. How appropriate that Jesus and his mother took her home on the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary! In the day's first reading we heard, “The time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.” Indeed, Joan lived so well with a deep, abiding faith!

Born on September 22, 1929, Sister Joan was the oldest of the five children of Frank and Anna Marie (Schnur) Schnorbus. She was taught by our Sisters at St. Stephen Protomartyr and St. John the Baptist High School. She entered our community in 1949 and professed first vows on August 10, 1951. With both bachelor's and master's degrees in English from St. Louis University, she spent much of her life teaching high school English. She later completed a master's in Spirituality at Creighton University.

Sister Joan taught elementary school at Holy Family and St. Clement in St. Louis; St. Henry in Charleston, MO; and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Las Cruces, NM. She was a teaching principal at St. Anthony School in High Ridge, MO. She taught at St. Elizabeth Academy and Bishop DuBourg in St. Louis, St. Mary's Academy in O'Fallon and Valle High School in Ste. Genevieve. After leaving the classroom she served as local coordinator of our St. Joseph retirement community from 1991-93.

From 1994 until 2007 Sister Joan served as the Director of Religious Education for the parishes of St. Brigid in Liberty and St. Thomas in Camp Point, Illinois. She was well-loved by the parishioners, and a family from St. Thomas stopped by to visit on Saturday, June 9, only to learn of her death. When she retired from her work in these parishes, the pastor wrote in the Sunday bulletin, “I am so blessed to share in pastoral ministry and friendship with you! . . . You are a rich blessing to me. I thank God for you, for my life has been changed.”

In 2007 Sister Joan returned to O'Fallon. Her ministry record lists volunteer, driver, and spiritual director. The volunteer activities were legion – sacristan, RCIA and Bible study at Assumption Parish, ESL teacher, Mass text preparation with our Sisters at Mount Carmel, O'Fallon police chaplain, and many others, some that we probably don't even know about. She was prepared to help whenever and wherever she could.

Sister Joan lived quietly and unobtrusively. Her smiles and her hugs were dispensed generously and with great warmth. She had the gift of making each person feel welcome, wanted, and significant. In an exquisite article that she wrote for *Living City* magazine while on sabbatical at the Focolare School for Religious she says, "He [Jesus] keeps reminding me to see and hear him in every present moment and to remember that 'only one thing is required.'" The sense of deep joy and peace that she exuded and the warmth that she extended to each person indicates that she did recognize Jesus in every moment and in every face.

Sister Joan was an artist of words, painting vivid pictures with her skilled writing. After receiving a grant to attend a prestigious Humanities Study Program, she described her preparations by saying, "The thrill of meeting and experiencing the elite persons in the program bubbled like champagne under my exterior calm." An article for our community's *Intercom* described her experience at the Focolare School for Religious. She wrote it "not only to inform you, but also to convince myself that this is real, and I am not living in a dream. Sometimes the reality becomes overwhelming, and my gratitude, love, and joy in being a C.P.P.S. Sister overflows to such a point I can't contain it; I feel like my spirit will burst out of my body."

Sister Joan was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Robert, and her sister Margaret. She is survived by her sisters, Mary Louise Bohn and Anna Marie Armbruster, as well as nieces, nephews, and many friends, particularly her profession classmates. Let us hold them in prayer as they grieve the loss of her earthly presence.

Sister Joan's body will return to St. Joseph Chapel at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, June 15, 2018, and her wake will be from 4 – 8 p.m., with a Prayer Service of Thanksgiving at 7 p.m. Her wake will continue Saturday, June 16, from 9 – 10:45 a.m. with her Funeral Mass at 11 a.m., all in St. Joseph Chapel.

Now Sister Joan is seeing Jesus face to face "in every present moment." Only one thing is required, and she now can sit in complete peace at the feet of Jesus and enjoy his every word.

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