

**Sister Paula Stauder, C.PP.S.**

**Born: March 23, 1929**

**Professed: August 10, 1951**

**Entered into Life: February 27, 2021**

Verse on her memorial card:

**“Dance, Dance, wherever you may be. I am the Lord of the Dance said He.”**



March 3, 2021

Dear Sisters,

At approximately 3:35 a.m. on Saturday, February 27, 2021, God called our Sister Paula Stauder home. Sisters from Abbey Senior Health had taken turns sitting with Sister Paula on Friday, with Sister Estelle Sullentrup praying quietly at the doorway for most of the day. Early Saturday, what a joy it must have been for Sister Paula, one who was always so welcoming, to be welcomed by the God whom she loves so much! She is now pain-free and can say with even greater exuberance, “I am blessed to my boots!”

Born on March 23, 1929, Paula was the oldest of two children of Arthur and Grace (Elleard) Stauder. In her autobiography she wrote that she and her brother would have liked to have other siblings, and that she once wanted to marry and have ten children. She wryly commented, “Little did I realize what that would have meant.”

Paula attended Harris Teachers College for a year and a half before entering our novitiate in 1949. She professed first vows as Sister Mary Arthur on August 10, 1951.

She later completed her bachelor’s degree in Education at Maryville College and earned a master’s degree in Catechetics at Instituto Catequetico in Santiago, Chile.

Sister Paula taught at the kindergarten and elementary levels at St. Anthony of Padua, High Ridge, MO; St. George, St. Agatha, and St. John the Baptist, St. Louis, MO; Most Sacred Heart, Florissant, MO; and, St. Mary’s, Quincy, IL. Sister Paula served as a teacher and pastoral minister at Our Lady of Guadalupe School and Parish in Lima, Peru, for eight and a half years.

Sister Paula offered herself in a variety of other ministries. She ministered with the Charismatic Movement in the Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese. She served as a pastoral minister and director of religious education at St. Elizabeth Parish, Marine,

IL; Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Houston, TX; Our Lady of the Assumption, Harlingen, TX; and St. Margaret Ann Parish, Santa Maria, TX. She reached out to the poor and elderly at St. Boniface Parish, Edwardsville, IL and in St. Louis, MO at the Catholic Hispanic Center, St. Agatha Center, Benton Pride Senior Center, and South Side Catholic Community Services.

In 1997 Sister Paula retired to the ministry of prayer and presence at St. Monica Convent in Creve Coeur where she volunteered in many capacities. In 2012 she moved to O'Fallon, and in 2014 she became a resident of Villa Theresa Haven, now Abbey Senior Health.

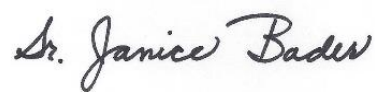
Sister Paula's ability to love, to reach out to people, and to show appreciation were remarkable. She gave her life for others in ways both small and large. She particularly enjoyed the pastoral work of forming small Christian communities, both in Lima, Peru, and here in the States. It was in this work that she felt most able to share her deep faith with others. The joy that she exuded was a testament to the power of God's profound love.

Sister Paula was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her brother, Arthur, Jr. and his wife, Arlene. She is also survived by four nephews and one niece and their families: Gerald (Susan), Thomas (Rosie), James and Daniel Stauder, and Kathleen (Frank) Pender. Please keep all of them in your prayers along with her profession classmates and many friends.

In keeping with the generosity that characterized her entire life, Sister Paula donated her body to St. Louis University School of Medicine. A prayer service and sharing of memories will take place via Zoom on Friday, March 5, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated when her family is able to join us in St. Joseph Chapel. This will be especially meaningful for her architect-brother since he designed the west side of the chapel.

"Dance, dance wherever you may be. 'I am the Lord of the Dance,' said He." These are the words Sister Paula chose for her memorial card. Even when dancing became impossible, Sister Paula's spirit continued to dance. We pray that she is now dancing with abandon in the arms of Lord of the Dance.

Sincerely,

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

Sr. Janice Bader