

**Sister Margaret Bollner, C.PP.S.**

**Born: February 17, 1939**

**Professed: August 10, 1960**

**Entered into Life: November 10, 2021**

Verse on her memorial card:

**“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.” (1 COR. 13:1)**

November 12, 2021

Dear Sisters,



At approximately 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, our Sister Margaret Bollner experienced the ultimate healing as she left this world for the next. Sister Charlene Grieshaber, a profession classmate, and Linda Cento, Director of Nursing at Abbey Senior Health, were with her when she died. Always a free and determined spirit, it seemed as though Margaret made up her mind that it was time to go, and God granted her desire.

Born in Charleston, South Carolina on February 17, 1939, Margaret was the second of three children of Fred and Margaret (Boschert) Bollner. After several moves, the family settled in south St. Louis. Margaret entered our community after graduation from St. Elizabeth Academy. She was received into the novitiate in 1958 and received the name Sister John Mark. She professed first vows on August 10, 1960. She completed a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Fontbonne College and a master's in creation spirituality from Holy Names College in Oakland, CA.

Sister Margaret served as an elementary and pre-school teacher in Missouri at All Saints, St. Peters; St. Brendan, Mexico; Assumption, Mattese; St. Paul, Fenton; Linda Vista Catholic School, Chesterfield; St. Clement of Rome, Visitation Child Development Center, and Most Holy Trinity School, all in St. Louis. Father John Reiker, then pastor of Holy Trinity, wrote of her service, “Sister Margaret is a perfect example of the gentle love and acceptance, joy and hope, for which our children are so hungry.”

After her sabbatical and degree work in Oakland, CA, Sister Margaret left the classroom for ministry opportunities that allowed her to utilize her new learnings and that were more in keeping with her energy level. She served for five years as a residential counselor at Girls Hope in St. Louis and for two years in ministry to the

poor at Genoa Christian Center in West Virginia. Since 2005 Margaret ministered in massage therapy and pranic healing with Dr. Joan Brower in Wentzville, MO. When Dr. Brower visited Margaret on November 10, she brought a stack of cards and well-wishes that demonstrated how loved Margaret was by her clients.

Sister Margaret loved nature and found God there. In a paper she wrote for one of her classes at Holy Names College, she described what she termed a mystical experience. "I sat on a huge rock by the brook and gently lay my hand on the Earth. As I did this, the heartbeat of the earth was felt in my entire being. The calmness and peacefulness of this moment remains with me."

Her brother, Dan, was able to connect with Margaret by phone just hours before her death. Though she was unable to reply verbally, she did respond with a smile. Margaret now is reunited with her parents and her brother, Fred, who preceded her in death. She is survived by her brother, Dan, and his wife, Dotty, and by her sister-in-law, Helen, as well as by nieces, nephews, and many friends. Please keep her family, friends, and profession classmates in prayer as they adjust to the loss of Margaret's earthly presence.

There will be a wake at Baue Funeral Home in O'Fallon from 4-8 p.m. on Thursday, November 18, 2021. Sister's body will return to St. Joseph Chapel at 9 a.m. on Friday, November 19. We will have a sharing of memories at 10:30 a.m. and her Funeral Mass at 11 a.m., all in St. Joseph Chapel. Sister Margaret will be buried in our convent cemetery.

Sister Margaret was her own person, never shy about expressing her opinions. Or, as she liked to say, she was "known to occasionally stir the pot." Despite her sometimes out-spoken disagreements, Margaret cared deeply for others. Perhaps the quotation that she chose for her memorial card is meant to reassure us of her love: "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal" (1 Cor. 13:1).

Go in peace, Margaret. Know that our love is with you and that we trust in your love.

Sincerely,

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

Sr. Janice Bader