

Sister Darlene Huck, C.PP.S.

Born: August 3, 1937

Professed: August 10, 1956

Entered into Life: January 19, 2022

Verse on her memorial card:

**“All I ask of you is forever to remember me
as loving you.” Hymn by Gregory Norbet**



January 21, 2022

Dear Sisters,

At approximately 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, our Sister Darlene Huck slipped peacefully from this life into the arms of God. Sister Marlene, who came into this world with her, was at Darlene's side as she left this world.

Darlene Agnes Huck was born on August 3, 1937, in Bloomsdale, MO, the tenth of twelve children of Joseph and Gertrude (Drury) Huck. Following close behind was her twin sister, Marlene, the eleventh of the twelve. Weighing only three pounds each, they were baptized immediately by the midwife who feared they might not survive. But survive and thrive they did, sharing life together for nearly 84½ years.

Darlene entered our novitiate in 1954 and received the name, Sister Caelestia. She professed first vows on August 10, 1956. She completed a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Quincy College in Quincy, IL.

An excellent and creative elementary teacher, Sister Darlene taught at St. Charles Academy, Stratton, CO; St. Mary in Glasgow, MO; Holy Family, St. George, St. John the Baptist, and St. Nicholas, all in St. Louis, MO; St. Rose, Quincy, IL; St. Vincent, Dutzow, MO; Assumption, O'Fallon, MO; and St. Patrick, Wentzville, MO.

After 28 years of teaching Sister Darlene, along with her sister, Marlene, began serving in parish ministry. Their first assignment included simultaneous service at four rural parishes in southwestern Missouri: Sacred Heart Parish, Willow Springs; Sacred Heart Church, Mountain Grove; St. Joseph – White Church, Pomona; and St. Michael Church, Cabool. “On the Road Again” was their theme song as they traveled from parish to parish.

After that balancing act, Sisters Darlene and Marlene went on to serve among the rural poor at Christ the Healer Parish in Edmonton, KY, where they managed a shelter for

the homeless and a huge food pantry as well as conducting extensive outreach. From Edmonton, they moved to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Tennessee Ridge, TN. There too, they were involved in extensive outreach to the local community. They wrote, "It was our belief that for our ministry to be complete, it always had to extend beyond the parish church doors."

In 1999 Sister Darlene responded to the community's request to become co-webmaster, along with Sister Marlene, for the community's new website. They became "masters" of all things "computer" and assisted our sisters with technology until their retirement in 2018.

Sister Darlene was talented in art, music, poetry, and photography. Among her many creations is a family photo album illuminated by her artwork and poetry. Music was part of her life from childhood; she and Sister Marlene inherited their father's talent of being able to reproduce any music they heard. After a few piano lessons, our late Sister Lillian told them not to waste their family's money; they had no need to learn to read notes. She acquiesced to their desire to join the school band, but only if they would agree to watch the other band members and turn the pages of music at the appropriate times.

Sister Darlene treasured her family deeply. She also knew she was cherished, and she loved to recount her mother's words, "Don't let anything happen to those twins." Her closest bond obviously was with her twin -- the word "I" was not part of her vocabulary; she always spoke of "we."

Sister Darlene was preceded in death by her parents; by her sisters, Agnes, Augusta, Adele, Eudocia, and Najeda; and by her brothers, Joseph, Urban, Quintin, and Aelred. She is survived by Sister Marlene and by her brother, Duane. She also is survived her sister-in-law, Mary Huck, as well as by many nieces and nephews of several generations. Please keep her family close in prayer, especially Sister Marlene, her life-long companion and soulmate.

We will welcome Sister Darlene's body to St. Joseph Chapel for a wake at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. There will be a sharing of memories at 10:30 and the celebration of her funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Burial will be in our convent cemetery.

One of Sister Darlene's parting gifts is the quote she chose for her memorial card, "All I ask of you is forever to remember me as loving you." Thank you, Sister Darlene, we will remember.

Sincerely,
Sr. Janice Bader