

Sister Claire Slama, C.PP.S.

Born: September 13, 1930

Professed: August 10, 1951

Entered into Life: December 23, 2022

Verse on her memorial card:

“I have called you by name: you are mine.”

Isaiah 43:1



December 28, 2022

Dear Sisters,

At approximately 10 p.m. on Friday, December 23, 2022, God called Sister Claire Slama to her eternal home. Her season of Advent waiting completed, she was welcomed to the fullness of Christmas joy. “I have called you by name: you are mine” (*Isaiah 43:1*), the words Sister Claire chose for her memorial card, were fully realized.

Marcella Slama was born in St. Louis, MO, on September 13, 1930, the thirteenth of fifteen children of William and Veronica (Kuntz) Slama. She was born during the great depression, and her parents were struggling to support their ten children (three older siblings died in infancy) on the \$12 a week that her father earned.

Marcella was taught by our sisters at St. John the Baptist Grade and High Schools. As early as her sophomore year, she desired to enter the convent, but her mother needed her help at home. During her senior year, one of the parish priests took a group of girls to visit the Holy Spirit Adoration (Pink) Sisters. That trip clarified for Marcella the question she had been pondering—whether to be a contemplative sister or a teaching sister. This experience confirmed the call to be a Sister of the Most Precious Blood.

Marcella entered our novitiate on July 25, 1949, and she received the name Sister Veronica Claire, later shortened to Claire. She professed first vows on August 10, 1951. Sister Claire completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish at St. Louis University and a Master of Arts in Theology at St. John’s University in Collegeville, MN.

Sister Claire began her teaching career at Sacred Heart in Florissant, MO, with 63 third grade students. In Missouri, she also taught at St. Joseph, Cottleville; Immaculate Conception, Conception; St. Mary’s, Glasgow; St. Peter, Fulton; St. Anthony of Padua, High Ridge; Holy Family, Holy Innocents, St. Nicholas, St.

John the Baptist, and St. Monica in St. Louis. In Nebraska, she taught at St. James in Crete and St. Richard in Omaha. She also taught secondary school at Bishop DuBourg in St. Louis.

After 25 years of teaching, Sister Claire worked for a time in our Ecclesiastical Art Department. She then served as pastoral minister and director of religious education in California at Santa Rosa in San Fernando, St. Ignatius in Sacramento, St. Aloysius Gonzaga in Los Angeles, and La Purisima in Orange. She also ministered as a pastoral associate at St. Joseph in Springfield, MO. Upon returning to O'Fallon, she served as a driver, and she taught Spanish to home-schooled students.

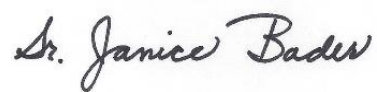
Sister Claire was a grateful and kind-hearted soul. She always was appreciative of any kindness and was quick to thank publicly the celebrant of daily Mass. Sister Claire was welcoming and loved to greet and chat with individuals and groups visiting Villa Theresa. A lay resident who became Sister Claire's neighbor at Villa Theresa Apartments tells of Sister Claire's solicitousness for her – something needed and deeply appreciated as a new arrival.

Sister Claire was preceded in death by her parents; by her brothers, William, Joseph, John, Anthony, Aloysius, Bernard, Charles, and Vincent; by her sisters, Veronica, Rita, Delores Lain, Loretta Korte, Rosemary Belcher, and by her sister and ours, Sister Anita Rose. She is survived by nieces, nephews, and friends.

Sister Claire generously donated her body to St. Louis University School of Medicine. We will celebrate her life with a Memorial Mass in St. Joseph's Chapel at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. We will gather for Sharing of Memories at 1:30 that day.

In her autobiography, Sister Claire wrote of an experience as a teenager, sitting in a park and enjoying "everything around me: children running and playing, parents watching them, all the little animals, the beautiful trees, bushes, and flowers . . . all of a sudden the most wonderful feeling came over me – that all of us there and all nature were somehow united in God, all part of God's family." Sister Claire, we pray that you now are rejoicing in this mystical sense of unity and that you recognize yourself as a most beloved member of God's family.

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