



*In Memory of
Sister Katherine Ann Wildt
1937-2024*

February 1, 2024

Dear Sisters, Family, and Friends,

Around 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 28, 2024, our Sister Katherine Ann Wildt went home to God. Sisters Julie Wolf and Geraldine Vogel and two of the nurses from Abbey Senior Health were with her as she quickly, and somewhat unexpectedly, left this life.

Katherine Ann was the first of three children of Albert and Veronica (Boesch) Wildt. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 14, 1937, she was educated by our sisters at St. Stephen Protomartyr and at St. Elizabeth Academy. At St Elizabeth, she often joined the sisters for the morning Divine Office, and she regarded that as one of the seeds of her vocation.

Katherine Ann came to O'Fallon after her junior year of high school. Although her mother encouraged her to wait so she wouldn't miss the prom and other senior year activities, Katherine Ann responded with her characteristic directness, "I don't think I need all of that." She was received into our novitiate on July 25, 1955, and was given the name Sister Mary Brigid. She professed first vows on August 10, 1957.

Sister Katherine Ann earned both a Bachelor and Master of Arts degree in English at Creighton University in Omaha. Always thirsting for knowledge, Sister Katherine Ann availed herself of every opportunity to learn, including a summer of study in England. It was there that she found a kindred spirit in British author, Elizabeth Gaskell. Gaskell's use of color in her writings touched into Katherine Ann's love of art, so much so that Katherine Ann chose Gaskell's use of color as the subject of her doctoral dissertation at St. Louis University. Her dissertation was later published and used as a university level text.

Sister Katherine Ann eagerly shared her love of learning. She taught elementary grades in Missouri at St. George and Holy Family in St. Louis and at Assumption in Mattese. She also taught at St. Joseph and St. Richard in Omaha, Nebraska, and St. Mary's and St. Peter's in Quincy, Illinois. She served in secondary education at

St. Elizabeth Academy and St. Mary's High School in St. Louis and St. Mary's Academy in O'Fallon. At the college level, she was an instructor and professor at St. Louis University, St. Mary's College of O'Fallon, and Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri. After her retirement from full-time teaching, she tutored students at St. Margaret of Scotland School in St. Louis.

In the 1980's Sister Katherine Ann served as part of the three-member team that revised our community's *Constitutions*. Theirs was the daunting task of expressing the essence of our community's spirit -- a task they completed masterfully.

Sister Katherine Ann was precise in spoken and written words, and her communication was often spiced by her dry sense of humor. Enunciation ranked high in her list of values, and her distinctive speech pattern was sometimes teasingly imitated. She loved reading, writing, editing, and drawing. She also relished good conversation and preferred a visit rather than a gift to honor special occasions. With her varied talents and interests, she could perhaps be described as a "renaissance woman."

Sister Katherine Ann was preceded in death by her parents and her brother-in-law, Augustine Sansone. She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Albert and Edwardine Wildt; by her sister, Loretto Sansone; and by nieces and nephews. Let us keep them in our prayers as they mourn the loss of her earthly presence.

We will welcome Sister Katherine Ann's cremains to St. Joseph's Chapel at 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 22, 2024. The Sharing of Memories will begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. Her burial will be in our convent cemetery.

When I visited with Sister Katherine Ann on the evening before she died, she said, "I love all our sisters. When I was younger, I may have had trouble with some, but now I honestly can say I love them all." Surely that same sentiment extends to her family and friends. Sister Katherine Ann chose Jeremiah 31:3 for the verse on her memorial card, "I have loved you with an everlasting love." That verse is an expression of her deep trust in God's love; let us now trust and find comfort in her continuing love for us.

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