

Sister Marge Cordes, C.PP.S.

Born: May 26, 1939

Professed: August 10, 1960

Entered into Life: July 23, 2024

Verse on her memorial card:

"I have asked the Lord for one thing; one thing only do I want: to live in the Lord's house all my life, to marvel there at his goodness, and to ask for his guidance." Psalm 27:4



July 26, 2024

Dear Sisters, Relatives, and Friends,

Shortly before 4:15 p.m. on July 23, 2024, our Sister Marjorie (Marge) Cordes went home to the arms of our loving God. We trust she is experiencing the fulfillment of the psalm verse she chose for her memorial card, "One thing only do I want: to live in the Lord's house all my life, to marvel there at his goodness" (Ps 27:4).

Marjorie Irene Cordes was born in south St. Louis on May 26, 1939, the second of two daughters of Herman and Ursula (Janka) Cordes. She was baptized at St. Pius V Parish, attended grade school there, and loved the sisters, often volunteering to help them after school hours. She recalls being "privileged" to clean the sheets of metal used to stretch the sisters' starched bonnets.

Marge met our Precious Blood Sisters when she attended Bishop DuBourg High School. She loved her classes, was active in sports, and enjoyed life with friends. During senior-retreat, she missed one of the conferences because she was sitting on a tree trunk trying to decide if she should go to the convent. The decision was affirmative. She was received into our novitiate on July 25, 1958, and was given the name Sister Mary Mathias. She professed first vows on August 10, 1960.

Sister Marge earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education at Fontbonne College in St. Louis and a Master of Arts in Science Education at Creighton University in Omaha, NE.

Sister Marge taught elementary grades at Our Lady of Fatima, Florissant, MO; St. John's School, Uncasville, CT; and Redwood School of the Precious Blood in Redwood Falls, MN. She taught high school in Missouri at St. Henry in Charleston, St. John the Baptist and Bishop DuBourg in St. Louis, and St. Mary's Academy in O'Fallon. At Bishop DuBourg she also served as assistant principal. Sister Marge ministered to our sisters as a member of the congregational leadership team and as the administrator and local

coordinator of our retirement center. In addition, she spent almost ten years in ministry to the poor through St. Agatha Center in St. Louis.

In her autobiography, Sister Marge wrote that there was never any doubt that she and her sister, Barb, were loved by their parents. Though her parents were not demonstrative in their affections, Marge recalled that they centered their lives around their two daughters, and she credits them with inspiring her deep love for nature. Family weekend trips were routine, whether a simple picnic or visits to “every fire tower within a hundred-mile radius of St. Louis,” each of which Marge climbed. Many weekends included visits to a relative’s farm in Dardenne where she learned to appreciate country life.

Her close-knit family shaped her life, and she freely returned the love she received. When her mother became a single- and then a double-amputee, Marge spent evenings and weekends caring for her in addition to a full-time teaching load. When her sister, Barb, needed help in her later years, Marge was there to assist.

Marge brought that same spirit of love and care to each of her ministries, to her students, to our sisters, and to her clients at St. Agatha. Respect for the individual was a hallmark, along with smiles, encouragement, and warm hugs. She developed strong and supportive friendships with her fellow teachers and felt that they, too, were part of her ministry.

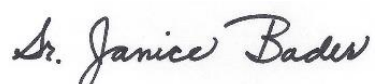
Her life was deeply rooted in prayer, and she relished opportunities for faith sharing. She was profoundly touched by sabbatical time at Sangre de Cristo in New Mexico and St. Stephen Priory in Dover, Massachusetts. The distinctive natural beauty of these areas as well as creation spirituality fed her soul, and she remained always grateful.

Sister Marge was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Barb. She is survived by cousins and many friends. She will be greatly missed by them and all her Precious Blood Sisters, especially her profession classmates and her dear and faithful friend, Sister Joan Klaas. Please hold them in prayer.

Sister Marge chose to donate her body to science, an expression of her life-long generosity and commitment to learning. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on August 2, 2024, in St. Joseph Chapel in O’Fallon.

Anyone who visited Marge in recent years knows her response to the question: How are you? “I think I’m okay. Nobody has told me anything different.” Yes, Marge, you are okay, and we are confident that you now are hearing that directly from God in whose house you have been longing to dwell. Home at last -- Enjoy!

Sincerely,

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

Sr. Janice Bader