

September 25, 2019

Sister Mary DeMontfort Berchtold
Teacher; secretary

St. Louis, Missouri – Sister Mary DeMontfort Berchtold, 95, passed away peacefully on September 15, 2019, at Anna House, The Sarah Community in Bridgeton, Missouri. In her SSND ministry, she served as a teacher of elementary grades and a secretary.

The wake and prayer service was held at The Sarah Community and Theresa Center on September 19, 2019. Burial was in the Sancta Maria in Ripa cemetery.

The third child and daughter of Mary Elizabeth (Gier) and Stephen Berchtold was born in Alexander, Illinois, on October 21, 1923. She was baptized on October 28, 1923, at Visitation Church in Alexander, Illinois, and named Gertrude Frances. Gertrude entered the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis, on October 15, 1943. She was received into the novitiate on July 30, 1945, and given the name, Mary DeMontfort. Profession of first vows was on July 31, 1946, and final vows on July 31, 1952.

For 13 years, she taught elementary children at St. Francis de Sales in St. Louis and St. Francis of Assisi in Teutopolis, Illinois. She taught high school at St. Joseph in Cairo, Illinois, for one year.

She earned a bachelor's degree in English from Webster College (now University), St. Louis in 1955, and a master's degree in higher education from St. Louis University in 1964.

In 1960, Sister DeMontfort was appointed registrar at the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis. When the college closed in 1977, she served on the secretarial staff for 11 years at the former St. Louis Province's vocation office and spiritual development office, which included a tape library. She served on the secretarial staff for Maria Center for five years and as a development staff member at Notre Dame High School, St. Louis, for seven years. She then volunteered in the Notre Dame High School library until her transfer to Veronica House in June 2016.

Sister DeMontfort is survived by her brother Leo Berchtold of Rathdrum, Idaho, and her nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Albert Berchtold and her sisters; Monica McFadden, Isabel Richards and Marie Knoke.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Resource Development, 320 East Ripa Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63125, or online at <https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/give>.

