



*"The faithful shall  
abide with him in love  
because grace and  
mercy are with his  
holy ones."*



## *Blessings on the Journey*

If you would like to share memories and stay connected with the Sisters, we welcome your visits, correspondence and calls. Our doors and our hearts are open to you!

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To honor the memory of Sister Theresa Diane and her loving concern for others, a donation can be made to the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart to further our works of neighborly love for those in need.

Thank you for enabling Sister to continue doing good on earth through your generosity.



FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART

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*In Loving  
Memory*



*Sr. Theresa Diane  
Lopez, OSF*

1932—2024



**"ALL  
FOR JESUS,  
THROUGH  
MARY"**

# Sister Theresa Diane

At Rest

August 8, 2024

Sister Theresa Diane Lopez was born on September 20, 1932, in Los Angeles, CA, to Fermin and Edith Lopez and was given the name Theresa. She was one of three children, having one brother and one sister. Her mother passed away when she was six years old, but God always gave her support when she needed it most.

In April 1957, Sister Therese Diane discovered the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart when she worked at Queen of Angels Hospital in Los Angeles, CA, and soon after entered the congregation as a Postulant on December 9, 1957. After six months, she was received as a Novice on June 20, 1958, and was given the name Sister Ella Gerard. Following two years of formation in the Novitiate, she professed First Vows on June 21, 1960, and Perpetual Vows on June 21, 1963.

After Profession, Sister Theresa Diane ministered at St. Joseph Convent, Garrett, IN, as a housekeeper; at Stritch Retreat House Mundelein, IL, doing domestic ministry; at St. Vincent Home, Freeport, IL, as a Children's Supervisor; at Queen of Angels Hospital, Los Angeles, CA, and St. Joseph Hospital, San Francisco, CA, as an Admitting Clerk; and at St. Anne's Maternity Home, Los Angeles, CA, as a Housemother. Her motherly manner was evident to many. Some time ago there was a gentleman who searched the internet to locate Sister Theresa Diane whom he had worked with at Queen of Angels Hospital. He felt compelled to thank Sister for the

cross and chain she had given him 50 years before, assuring him that the cross would protect him as he entered the military. He still had that cross, which continued to protect him through all these years. They not only reconnected though emails but were reunited in person when the gentleman attended Sister's 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee celebration at the Motherhouse in 2017.

Following these 20 years of engaging in a variety of ministries, Sister earned a Pastoral Care Certificate and moved into Pastoral Care Ministry in 1983. This took her over the next 15 years to St. Joseph Medical Center, Joliet, IL; Queen of Angels Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA; and St. Francis Hospital, Santa Barbara, CA. Pastoral Care Ministry brought Sister much joy as she met many wonderful and faith-filled people. She felt blessed to have been present with families as they watched and waited with a parent, spouse or child to live their final hours on this side of eternity. On numerous occasions she was able to assist a family to recognize the time, the need and also the grace of letting go. Other special moments occurred when Sister was able to reconcile children and parents, especially regarding the faith formation of a child or grandchild. On one occasion, there was special joy for the parents when, through the careful conversation of Sister, their daughter's Mormon husband permitted a Christmas crib to be set up in their home.

In 2002, Sister Theresa Diane moved to Danville, IL, where she spent the next 7 years volunteering at Provena United Samaritan Medical Center in Medical Records or helping at St. Paul Catholic Church in the food pantry and with clerical work. In 2009, Sister came to the Motherhouse and offered her services as sacristan for the next three years. Although she soon found it necessary to cut back even more, she nevertheless could be found regularly helping in the reorganization of the library.

When Sister celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 2007, she wished it to be a year of grace and an opportunity to evaluate her entire life. She remarked that her many years as a religious had been special, even though she thought she would never make it.

On the occasion of her 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 2017, Sister Theresa Diane said that she always felt that God was with her, asking her for daily signs of her love for Him. She commented that it was not always easy to say "Yes." However, with the grace of God, she continued to be open to what the Lord asked of her on a daily basis, even after 60 years of humble, dedicated obedience. She added that her heart was full of gratitude to God for the great blessing of her religious vocation, especially her vocation to this Franciscan congregation dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Those of us who have lived with Sister Theresa Diane knew her to live her vocation intensely and completely. We are all directed by the first and greatest commandment to "love the Lord God with our whole heart, our whole soul, our whole mind and our whole strength." Sister Theresa Diane had that down to a precious art!

After a time of illness and with ready acceptance, Sister passed into the loving arms of her God on August 8, 2024. We thank her loving caregivers and extend our deepest sympathy to her half-sister Loretta Jacobs, other relatives, friends, and our Sisters.

Sister Theresa Diane, we will miss your sparkling eyes, your energetic ways and your spirit of compassion that brought joy and hope to so many. We present a red rose, treasured by you in memory of your dear mother. May you bloom in beauty and glory among all the angels and saints in the garden of paradise.



*"I will dwell in the house of the Lord for endless days."*

*(Psalm 23:6b)*