

## **Sister Vivian Schmidtberger, CSA**

Sister Vivian Schmidtberger, CSA, formerly Sister Catherine Siena, died peacefully July 5, 2018, at St. Agnes Hospital, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Vivian was born in Victoria, Kansas, on May 10, 1929, to Alphonse Schmidtberger and Clara Graf Schmidtberger. Her family included eight girls and four boys.

Having graduated in 1947 from St. Fidelis High School, Victoria, Kansas, she entered St. Agnes Convent in January 1949. Sister Vivian made her profession of vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes on August 15, 1951.



Sister Vivian received a BS in Education from Marian College of Fond du Lac and earned a Master's in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Sister Vivian taught in elementary schools in Indiana and Wisconsin before serving from 1960-1970 as a missionary in Managua, Puerto Cabezas, Rosita and Waspam, Nicaragua, as well as in Quito, Ecuador. Upon returning to the United States, she took time apart from CSA and taught bilingual education for nine years in the Milwaukee public school system. After re-entering the congregation, she assisted for a year in the Hispanic ministry sponsored through St. Louis Parish in Fond du Lac. Sister Vivian returned to Nicaragua in 1984 serving first in pastoral ministry in Belén, Rivas, followed by seven years devoted to the formation of young Nicaraguan women preparing to enter the congregation. La Ceiba, Honduras, was Sister Vivian's home during her final seventeen years as a missionary. The Women's Center established in La Ceiba in 1995 is an enduring legacy to Sister's commitment to the empowerment of women. Sister Vivian returned to the United States, becoming a resident of Nazareth Court and Center in 2010.

Sister Vivian was preceded in death by her parents Alphonse Schmidtberger and Clara (Graf) Schmidtberger; her brothers Linus Schmidtberger and Michael Schmidtberger; her sisters Hermina Roth, Angelita Schmidtberger, Hubertine Schultz and Mary Schmidtberger.

Sister Vivian is survived by her brothers Robert Schmidtberger and Marvin Schmidtberger; her sisters Albertine Foos, Edna Ptacek and Rosalyn Leiker, and the Sisters of St. Agnes, with whom she lived, prayed and ministered.

Visitation for Sister Vivian will be Thursday, July 12, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be on July 12, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. in St. Francis Home Chapel, 33 Everett Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. The presider will be Father Ken Smits, Capuchin. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Springs Cemetery.

Memorials can be directed to the Sisters of St. Agnes Development Office, 320 County Road K, Fond du Lac, WI 54937.

The Sisters of St. Agnes are grateful to the nurses and staff of Nazareth Court and Center/St. Francis Home for their care of Sister Vivian in her last years and to the staff of St. Agnes Hospital.

Zacherl Funeral Home is serving the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Agnes.