

## Remembering Sr. Mary Bernadette Pendola

Born on June 22, 1945 in Richmond, California, Gloria was the only daughter of Charles and Mary Dilena Pendola. She attended St. Cornelius Elementary School and St. Joseph High School in Berkeley. However, at the beginning of her junior year, she transferred to Notre Dame Academy in Los Angeles. She entered the community in February, 1963 and professed her first vows in 1965.

Although Sr. Bernadette spent 24 years ministering in elementary and secondary education, her first love was caring for the sick. Subsequently, she became a licensed vocational nurse and during her studies, she met Lois Harrion, a dear friend who became a member of the pioneer class of SND Associates. Her long-time dream to serve at an SND mission came true in 2000 when she was assigned to the dispensary in Jamalpur, India. Later, she ministered as the school nurse at St. Julie School in Buseesa, Uganda.



In 2007, she joined the community at Notre Dame Center because of a diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease. She served as a receptionist and provided secretarial support services. A thrill of her life was traveling to Lourdes in 2013 under the auspices of the Knights of Malta.

Sr. Bernadette was a talented artist as seen through her liturgical banners and greeting cards. She designed a ceramic plaque of St. Julie Billiart for St. Andrew's Abbey, Valerymo, and it is still available at the abbey's book store. In her prayer and concerns, her deep love for the missions was always evident; she delighted in Eastern spirituality and "all that is Indian."

After an obituary was posted online, the SNDs received several testimonials, memories of former students from St. Julie Primary School in Uganda, including these words from Norbert Mwesige:

*"We have lost a great instrument indeed. I am one of the pioneer students at St Julie Model Primary School in Buseesa who has ever felt how her services were, so great and caring. She loved her work and she always encouraged and motivated all persons of all ages. May the almighty grant her happiness with the angels in heaven. I will miss you always, Sister. May God be with you till we meet again."*

In recognition of Sr. Bernadette's passion for the SND mission fields, memorial contributions to the SND Global Missions Fund will be appreciated. Knowing that Sr. Bernadette was always devoted to her family, the community and to her many friends, we can be confident that she joins Our Lady in intercessory prayer for us each day.

"God is my good Father, in Whom I trust, and to Whom I abandon all.  
God is Jesus, my Lord and companion. I love Him and His mission  
and am willing to risk everything for it.  
God is Holy Spirit, Who makes all things new, and in His light, brings rebirth."  
*Excerpt from Bernie's Mission Statement*