



## Passing of Our Beloved Elder Sister Barbara Vincenz

Ki Hoon Kim and Michael Balcomb

August 31, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our beloved elder sister, Barbara Vincenz, 86, ascended peacefully to the spirit world on Sunday, August 28, 2016 in Barrington, Illinois after battling with Parkinsons' and Alzheimer's disease.

Barbara is a true champion of faith and dedication to God's providence. She is the tenth member to join the Unification Church in the United States and, together with her brother, Peter Koch helped introduce the Divine Principle in Europe. She accompanied her husband, Rev. Reiner Vincenz throughout his victorious ministry.

Barbara is survived by her daughter, Leena; son-in-law, Jario Vincenz-Gavin and grandchildren, Mirelle and Kyler.

Let us support Barbara's family during this important time, and pray for her victorious transition to a glorious new life in the spiritual world.

Following is Barbara's biography from her family and the Seonghwa ceremony information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ki Hoon Kim  
Continental Director

Dr. Michael Balcomb  
President



### **The Victorious Life of Barbara Vincenz June 12, 1930 - August 28, 2016**

Brigitte Barbara Rotraut Koch (Barbara Vincenz) was born on June 12, 1930 in Magdeburg, Germany. She grew up in a nice home with her parents Rudolf and Rotraut, big brother Peter and little sister Christel.

Barbara had a wonderful childhood but life changed as WWII hit. Her father and 16 year-old brother went to fight for their country. She was left with her mom and baby sister and Barbara was only 13 years old when they had to escape to West Germany together. She lost her father during the war and her mom was paralyzed in an accident shortly afterwards.

Eventually, Barbara followed her brother Peter Koch to America. She became a nanny for actress Beatrice Straight in NY and later went on to study interior design in San Francisco, where she joined the Unification Church as the tenth member in America.

Peter Koch, Barbara and a few others soon took the teachings of the Divine Principle to Europe. The first

member they witnessed to there was a young German man, Reiner Vincenz. In 1969, True Father matched and blessed Reiner and Barbara in marriage. She always says, "There are so many couples! We couldn't believe there were eight couples getting married together in Germany!" Barbara prepared the bride's veils and made True Parents' crowns for the ceremony out of special white leather.



Barbara was a devoted wife. She and Reiner accomplished a lot together traveling all over the world. They always lead together as a team - Reiner representing Heaven with the next big mission and Barbara representing Earth saying, "Reiner, but we have to do the laundry first!"

The Vincenz's planted seven churches - five in France, one in Andora and one in Monaco. They then led the IOWC international teams. First a 31-city and 8-city tour in America and then a 45-city tour in Japan and a 9-city tour in Korea leading to the famous Yoido Rally. Reiner and Barbara are always referred to as a pioneer couple, "Marching On!" They devoted their life and love to God and True Parents.

Following the IOWC campaigns, Barbara continued to support Reiner in his various leadership roles around America and the world. She served as the National Leader of Germany for some time. She was also able to use her interior design background to design some of our early properties in England as well as in the New Yorker Hotel. One of her proud moments was her time serving in True Parents' apartment in the New Yorker Hotel as their personal assistant.

In 1987, at the age of 57, Barbara finally became a mother as Leena Mirelle was offered to them by Hitoshi and Linda Nagai. She devoted the next years staying at home and raising Leena while Reiner continued mission work. After a lot of travelling, they lived in Germany from 1989-1995 and then came to Illinois in 1995 where they lived since.

Barbara was a wonderful mom, not only to her daughter but to the many people who knew her. She had a loving motherly heart to all who met her. She was always so full of joy, appreciation and generosity and always thought of everyone else before herself. She was very happy to finally receive a son when Leena received the Blessing in 2007 with Jario Gavin, and to become a grandma in 2011 when Mirelle Claire was born, and in 2015 when Kyler Fritz was born!

In her later years, Barbara devoted herself to taking care of Reiner who suffered with Parkinson's disease while she also began to have Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's. Barbara lived with her children for a year and then moved into a nursing home after her husband passed in 2015. Their children, Jario and Leena devoted themselves to taking care of Reiner and Barbara for the past five years and were proud to be a part of a three-generation family.

Barbara passed peacefully in a beautiful hospice facility in Barrington, IL on Sunday, August 28 around 5:45 a.m. after having been without fluids for seventeen days. What a strong woman! Family and friends were able to share many beautiful moments together, showering her with love and memories during the final weeks of her life. We are sincerely grateful for all of the love and prayers given during that time.

Barbara is now free in Heaven reunited with her husband, Reiner and many others. Let us pray for her victorious life and transition in to her eternal home dwelling in God's love.

Thank you.

Submitted by Leena & Jario Vincenz-Gavin

**Seonghwa Service**

Visitation for Barbara will be on Friday, September 2, 2016 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Morizzo Funeral Home and Cremation Services at 2550 W. Hassell Rd., Hoffman Estates, IL 60169.

Visitation will be available again on Saturday, September 3, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. until the 10:30 a.m. start of the Seonghwa Service.

A Wonjeon service will follow at the Evergreen Cemetery in Barrington, Illinois.

To send flowers and share memories, photos and videos, please visit the [Barbara Vincenz Seonghwa Website](#).

Financial gifts can be sent to Jario and Leena Vincenz-Gavin, 151 S. Ashland Ave., Palatine, IL 60074 or offered during the Seonghwa Service.