

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Valeria Abele

BORN: August 1924

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 15, 1949

DIED: May 8, 2014

We gather today to celebrate the life of our dear Sister Valeria Abele, a faithful and devoted Sister of the Precious Blood for 64 years.

Virginia Ann Abele was born in Dayton, Ohio in August 1924 to Lawrence Abele, Sr. and Helen (Leonard) Abele. She had 6 brothers and 2 sisters, one of whom was our own Sister Teresilda (Dorothy) Abele, all of whom preceded her in death. She is survived by three sister-in-laws, Catherine, Rita and Marcella.

Virginia Ann graduated from Julienne High School, Dayton, Ohio in 1942. Even though she felt a calling to religious life early on, it was only after working seven years and then visiting her Sister Dorothy in San Luis Rey and working with the Sisters there, that she decided to become a Sister of the Precious Blood. She said, "I wish to dedicate the rest of my life to Jesus and to help teach others to know and love Him." She entered the community on August 15, 1949 at the age of 25 and was given Valeria as her name in religion.

Sister Valeria began her ministry as an intermediate grade teacher at St. Joseph School in Wapakoneta, Ohio. After recognizing her compassion and caring spirit, the Community asked her to be-

gin nurses training. Valeria received her RN at Good Samaritan Hospital, Dayton in 1962 and her Degree in Nursing from the University of Dayton in 1963.

For the next 34 years Sister Valeria faithfully served as a registered nurse in Lourdes Hall and St. Joseph Children's Home, Dayton, Ohio; Kneipp Springs, in Rome City, Indiana; Marian Hall and St. Joseph Hospital in Flint, Michigan as well as DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn, Indiana. From 1980 - 1990 she served in a home for unwed mothers, Tucson General Hospital, and Santa Rosa Convalescent Center in Tucson, Arizona.

While in Tucson, Valeria had a wonderful opportunity to take a European tour to visit Belgium, Germany, Austria, France and Switzerland. This was a wonderful experience for her!

In 1991 Sister Valeria retired from nursing but helped the Sisters in Tucson whenever they needed her nursing skills. She was also a Eucharistic Minister and visited the sick and disabled of her parish. Valeria had a gift of brightening someone's day with the game of cards, puzzles or Scrabble.

A friend said, "Valeria truly loves our community. She regards being a member of the Congregation as a great privilege because in it she finds many

members to admire and emulate."

In 1997 she retired to Salem Heights doing various volunteer activities, enjoying hobbies, especially cross-stitching at which she excelled. Valeria said herself, "I'm almost addicted to counted-cross stitch. I love taking a piece of clear cloth and with a few stitches, see a beautiful picture emerge."

When we think of Sister Valeria, we remember her ready smile and her marvelous sense of humor. Valeria loved entertaining the Sisters on St. Patrick's Day with all her Irish ditties.

In February of 2013 Valeria re-located to Emma Hall due to declining health. Playing scrabble and doing counter-cross stitching were still favorite pastimes for her. She would often say, "I have to get all these orders done before I die." God had other plans for you, Valeria. You are now with the God you loved so much.

Sister Valeria, we will miss your presence. We have been inspired by your positive attitude and gentle disposition. We thank you for touching so many lives with your compassionate care.

—Sister Cecilia Taphorn