

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. M. Angela Therese Ballard

BORN: August 1933

ENTERED CONGREGATION: December 5, 1951

DIED: November 27, 2013

On the occasion of her 60th Anniversary as a Sister of the Precious Blood, our dear Sister Angela Therese wrote, "I have accepted and enjoyed many challenges because I was helping others. I have been able to meet and assist numerous wonderful people. My faith has deepened as I believe God is everywhere and guides [me] to where He wants me and needs me to accomplish His ministry. He is Present!" It is very evident that God has been present deeply to this gentle, giving, and compassionate woman who was sister to all of us.

In August, 1933, Patricia Jean Ballard was the third of seven children born to James and Mary (Hagan) Ballard in (as she loves to call it) the Holy Land of Kentucky — in Loretto near Gethsemane and St. Catherine's. This close-knit family of four boys and 3 girls in 1934 moved to Dayton, Ohio, where she met the Sisters of the Precious Blood. "At an early age," wrote Angela, "I was inclined toward prayer and religious ideas," remembering so well the religious beliefs and practices of parents, grandparents and other family members. Of her siblings, she wrote, "Their faith, support and encouragement are a great inspiration to me. With them hope takes on a very significant meaning each day."

Later the family moved to Tipp City where the children were taught religion by the Sisters of the Precious Blood, and Patricia Jean, after graduating from Tippecanoe City high school, worked for

six months as a stenographer at Wright Patterson Air Base. On December 5, 1951, she answered the call to religious life. She received the name, Sister M. Angela Therese (although her family endearingly called her "Sister Pat") and was finally professed on August 15, 1957. Many years later Sister exclaimed, "To me, religious life was and is pure gift — a gift given, a gift received."

In 1954 Sister began ministering as a teacher at Christ the King School in Denver, Colorado. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education and her Master in Education degree and continued teaching children in grades 5-8 in Ohio in Coldwater, Vandalia, Norwood, Ottawa, St. Mary and Dayton. Three of her 40 years in education were spent as a principal at Queen of Angels in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Sister was an excellent educator who was well loved by her students.

Along with ministering as an educator Angela assisted the sick and elderly in need. She ministered to her elderly mother and her older sister as needed and to others as well, especially to a younger sister who has faced very serious health problems. She retired in 1996 and served the sick and elderly in Maria Joseph Living Care Center and Salem Heights in the capacity of Eucharistic Minister and "beautician".

Sister Angela Therese humorously described her beautician work as "beautifying America." In regard to her serving the sick and elderly, she said, "What a great ministry this has been! The joy it

brings to others is its own reward. I am happy to be able to extend peace, joy, and a feeling of well-being into their lives."

She felt abundantly blessed as she grew in compassion and understanding of the sick. In her personal prayer journal, Sister Angela wrote, "Compassion is a precious gift of contemplative attendance to the people of our lives."

Through her years Angela relished reading and loved writing poetry. She appreciated nature and all the beauties of earth which enriched her days. Here is a poem she wrote in her later years:

GROWTH

A rosebud
Holds a radiant beauty
Tightly within.
Embraced by light
Petals unfold
With natural grace
Into a rose.

In this regard Sister Angela wrote, "As I continue to follow the Good Shepherd who leads me to be the best I can become, my sustaining hope and force is the strength of God's loving, understanding and Presence." And now dear Sister Angela Therese, you are in His loving arms — in His loving presence for all eternity. And today we join together in celebrating your becoming your best. You have become that blossomed rose so cherished by our God.

— Sister Nancy Kinross