

## IN MEMORIAM



# Sr. Marie Bax

(Sister Mary Hèloise)

BORN: October 1926

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 6, 1943

DIED: December 27, 2012

**W**e gather today to celebrate the life of our dear Sister Marie Bax, a devoted Sister of the Precious Blood for sixty-nine years.

Marie Bax was born to Henry Frank and Kathryn Marie (Wieberg) Bax in October 1926 in Moberly, Missouri. At that time she had two older brothers and four older sisters. Six years later a younger sister was born in Sedalia, Missouri bringing the total of children in the Bax family to eight.

"It was in Sedalia," wrote Sister Marie, "that I grew to know and love the Sisters of the Precious Blood, who taught me well during my eight years in Sacred Heart School." It was from her parents and the Sisters that she acquired a love of learning.

Saying goodbye to her family in Sedalia, Missouri, in 1940, young Marie took the first step in answering the call of the Lord by attending Precious Blood High School, referred to as the "Aspirancy" and operated by the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Dayton, Ohio. At the tender age of 16 Marie formally entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood family at the Salem Heights convent on August 6, 1943. When Marie became a novice in 1944 she received the religious name, Sister Mary Hèloise.

After her first profession in 1946, Sister Hèloise taught at Precious Blood School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and attended

St. Francis College and learned to play the church organ.

In 1952, Sister earned a Bachelor of Science in Education degree at the Athenaeum in Cincinnati, concentrating on English, Music and Latin. Later in 1961, Sister Hèloise received her Masters in Music Education at the University of Notre Dame. Marie considered the eight summers she spent at the University a highpoint in her life. "It was a great privilege, she wrote, "and very mind-stretching to be with such a diverse student body." Sister earned these degrees while teaching and later wrote, "I wonder where I found the time to do all that I did."

For five years Sister taught grade school in Fort Wayne, Indiana and Cincinnati, Ohio. For the next 20 years Sister Marie taught high school at Ottawa, Ohio; Lafayette, Indiana; Sedalia, Missouri; and San Luis Rey, California.

In 1971, Sister Dorothy Kammerer, our community treasurer, set Marie on a new career — that of accounting. Learning that her community of Sisters needed more of their members trained in finances, Marie took the challenge and enrolled in courses. By August, Sister was hired as assistant treasurer at Marian Hall in Flint, Michigan, where she worked for 17 years and grew into the jobs of treasurer and administrative assistant. Sister Marie was the last Sister of the Precious Blood to leave Marian Hall in 1989.

The next 17 years the Sisters of the Precious Blood had the great fortune of having Marie serving as assistant to

the Treasurer and later assisting the Finance Officer. Sister retired in 2006 in Dayton, Ohio.

Working and living with her Precious Blood Sisters, Marie was described as, "a quiet, low-key person who goes about her work diligently and effectively. She is a talented person who does not flaunt her abilities."

Marie readily admitted that listening to good music was one of her hobbies. She was an avid reader, liked to spend time with friends, and had a great desire to see new and exciting places.

When asked what the Congregation means to her, Marie responded, "I am happy to be part of a group of generous and loving women who have banded together to follow Jesus and to further the work of the Church. I have learned much from the sisters with whom I have lived and worked. They have been my mentors, my support and my friends. At another time, she said, "I have always been proud to be a Sister of the Precious Blood ... I have become aware of a special spirit of simplicity, of prayer and of competency in our sisters which is truly noteworthy."

Your life as Precious Blood Sister Marie Bax has also been truly noteworthy. Thank you, Marie, for who you are and for sharing your life with us and with those you served so very generously. Enjoy your new life with God. Do sing with the angels! We love you Marie.

— Sister Nancy Kinross