

## IN MEMORIAM



# Sr. Mary Linus Bax

BORN: November 1918

ENTERED CONGREGATION: June 16, 1933

DIED: February 3, 2012

**L**UCILLE Frances Bax was born in November 1918 in Koelztown, Missouri. She was the fifth of eight children that were born to Henry and Kathryn (Weiberg) Bax. In June of 1933, she entered religious life in Dayton, Ohio. She made her first profession of vows on August 15, 1936 and her final profession four years later.

Sister Mary Linus was a great writer. She wrote articles and poems. She wrote about her life and she even wrote her own eulogy. I will share that eulogy with you at the end of this tribute but, for the next several paragraphs I will also use Sister Linus's own words to highlight her life.

"From 1939-1955 I was assigned to various grade schools of the Community and loved every moment of it. I delighted in getting the students excited about learning and especially about reading. I read many a book to them. Also, all my classes could harmonize while singing the *Missouri Waltz*. At various places, I was also the organist. My places of assignment were in Ohio, Indiana, North Dakota, Arizona and California.

Then, for the next 15 years I was missioned to various high schools as history teacher or principal, sometimes as both. It was during these years that I escorted students on tours through Europe, trying to make history come alive for them. I would not advise the latter unless you have the strength of Samson, the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job; I possessed none of the above.

After surviving hundreds of teenagers, I ventured in the adult world, teaching courses in Biblical Archaeology and Memory. Because of the former, I escorted two tours to the Holy Land and, because of the latter, was in demand as a motivational speaker. From 1975-1996 I was the archivist of the Community, re-organizing ours, giving workshops to beginning archivists, and acting as consultant to all over the United States, Canada, and Rome. I wrote the first Policy Manual for Archives and disseminated it among eager archivists."

In 1996, Sister Mary Linus retired from the position of Congregational archivist; however, she remained very active. She kept the annuals for Salem Heights. She continued her research and wrote about the children of Mother Brunner. She studied the ministries of our Sisters in Tennessee. In short, Sister Mary Linus never stopped learning. As she said "once a historian, always a historian."

It is at this point that I want to share with you the eulogy that Sister Mary Linus wrote for herself. Her eulogy is a letter to her guardian angel, Prince Pierre, whom she named in the fourth grade. I believe it is in her own eulogy that you will have a glimpse of her spirituality.

*"Dear Prince Pierre, my good and loyal friend, you have been with me since the moment that I was born. You are my own personal guardian, given me by God to be my guide, my protector and special friend and you will stay with me until I die. The God Who created*

*both you and me gave me to you as your particular charge. You assisted with great joy at my baptism when I became a part of the Mystical Body of Christ and was made a member of God's family and an heir of heaven. You saw the many dangers that beset my path, and I am sure that you prevented me from succumbing to many of them. If I did sin at times, it was in spite of you. You envied me when Christ came to me in Holy Communion and still do. I can almost FEEL your awesome adoration when we receive Him into our hearts at Mass. Even though you probably were there among the angels that adored Him the night that He was born, you still have not been able to receive Him as I can. Please help me to appreciate this tremendous gift. Help me to realize, even as you do, that to serve Christ as a Sister of the Precious Blood is the most wonderful gift in the world for me. Protect me from harm of all kinds, physical, mental, and spiritual. I can be so obtuse at times that I may not realize the danger. I know that you will be with me at the hour of my death and will be my guide to my home in heaven. Bishop Leibold used to say that it was not I who needed eternal rest, but you, Prince Pierre. Is that really true? I know that we will both love being together loving the Lord in His own home. We will be together for all eternity, as we were together down here for so many years. Thank you for being my guardian angel and special friend. I love you with His own Heart, since mine is too small to give you all the love and thanks that you deserve. Again, thanks, Prince Pierre!"*

— Sister Linus Bax and Sister Linda Pleiman