

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Catherine Brickner

BORN: August 1932

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 28, 1949

DIED: December 23, 2012

We gather today to celebrate the life of our dear Sister Catherine Brickner, a devoted Sister of the Precious Blood for sixty-three years.

Catherine Josephine Brickner was born to Philomena Warnecke and John J. Brickner in August 1932 in Ottoville, Ohio. She was the oldest of ten children. Already at a young age, Catherine learned responsibility and care of her four sisters and five brothers.

Throughout her early years Catherine was attracted to the devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus, and at a young age she felt called to religious life. She entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood on August 28, 1949 at the age of 17. When she became a novice, she was given the name Sister Mary Lucina.

Catherine received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education and a Masters Degree in Secondary Education. For her first twelve years, she taught the primary grades in Ohio, first at St. Margaret Mary in Cincinnati, St. Anthony in Columbus Grove, and Immaculate Conception in Bodkins. In later years, she began teaching mainly science and health to junior high students in Celina and Ottawa, Ohio; Sedalia, Missouri; and Denver, Colorado.

After twenty-three years in education, Catherine changed careers when she became the Activities Director at Salem Heights and the Maria Joseph Center. In this ministry she found a wonderful outlet for her creativity and her boundless compassion. A friend of Catherine at the Maria Joseph Center said, "Catherine exemplifies enthusiasm and dedication in her ministry as an Activity Specialist at Maria Joseph Center. Her generous and cheerful spirit is evident as she goes about her duties. She accomplishes them with a positive attitude often quoting her mother, 'If you see something that needs to be done, do it.'"

In 1985 Catherine's life journey took her to the West Coast where she continued her ministry to the elderly. As activity director in Hillhaven Convalescent Center in Claremont, California and then at Prell Gardens in Van Nuys, California, Catherine continued to reach out to many in need and brought joy to many hearts.

Although she enjoyed California, she was happy to return to Ohio in 1992 where she could enjoy visits with her family. Soon after Catherine became the activity coordinator at Emma 4 and Lourdes 3 in Maria Joseph Center. Catherine said in her own words, "I feel that my work with the aging brings out some of the best qualities in me of compassion and caring for those in need. I hope I can bring a little

of Christ's healing touch to each one of them and make their quality of life just a little better each day."

Throughout her ministry to the aging adults, Catherine delighted in presenting creative crafts, games, and fun experiences for those whose mobility in life was curtailed. She was known for her smile, her words of encouragement, helpfulness and gentle demeanor. She kept up to date professionally through continuing education in gerontology and active participation in various Councils for the Aging.

In 2001 Catherine retired to Salem Heights. Even though she could no longer do the tasks she loved to do, she continued to keep her smile and gentle spirit. In 2004 Catherine moved to Emma Hall due to failing health.

Being a member of the Sisters of the Precious Blood has brought great joy in Catherine's life. At her Golden Jubilee, she wrote, "I feel very blessed to belong to a community that honors Jesus through the Precious Blood. God has drawn me close to Jesus." Catherine, you are now with the Lord you loved so much. Thank you for sharing the gifts of compassion and spirit of gentleness with us. We love you.

— Sister Cecilia Taphorn, CPPS