

## IN MEMORIAM



# Sr. Martha DeBrosse

(Sister M. Carmel)

BORN: April 1924

ENTERED CONGREGATION: July 16, 1940

DIED: March 27, 2015

**O**n the occasion of her 60th Jubilee as a Sister of the Precious Blood, Sister Martha DeBrosse wrote, "My life as a Sister of the Precious Blood has been very fulfilling. I give thanks daily for the many sisters who are and have been part of my life. Their love, prayers and support are deeply appreciated." Martha also was so appreciative of her family, especially her sister, Theresa, who lovingly spent time in weekly visits during Martha's later years. She was loved by her God, her community of Sisters, her family and those to whom she ministered.

Martha arrived to the delight of her parents, Benjamin and Agnes (Guillozet) DeBrosse in April 1924 in Piqua, Ohio. She was the second child of 12. Many years ago the *Piqua Daily Call* newspaper spoke in wonderment of these nine sons and three daughters. It seems all nine boys delivered their newspapers and, had they formed a ball team, they would be "heavy on brains as well as brawn." The daughters too were considered endowed with smartness. At the age of 10 Martha delivered in church a speech (written by Precious Blood Sister M. Manetta) on the occasion of the First Mass of her uncle, Father Edmund Guillozet, CPPS. The Piqua Paper went on to say Mr. and Mrs. DeBrosse, "admit it's not easy to rear 12 [children] during the world's deepest depression. They found, however, that a large family is a crucible for perfecting old-fashioned virtues."

In 1940, having learned virtuous living and having listened to her Lord's call, Martha at the age of 16 formerly entered the Congregation of the Sisters

of the Precious Blood. The entrance date, July 16, was the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Fittingly, she received the name in religion of Sister Mary Carmel. A number of years later, like so many other Sisters, she returned to using her baptismal name.

Sister ministered as an elementary school teacher for 53 years, teaching in Fort Wayne, Ind.; in Linton, N.D.; and in Norwood, Cincinnati, Glandorf, New Riegel, North College Hill, Hamilton, Dayton and Celina, Ohio. For 16 of those 53 years she served as principal.

Those who knew Sister Martha described her as a courageous person who dealt competently with crises and spoke her mind without regard for personal cost. Her fellow educators knew her to be generous, thorough and dependable, giving attention to detail. She was also adventuresome, trying new things and definitely not "stuck in a rut." Being a good sport she could take a joke and always found ways to bring humor into the lives of others.

A twenty-year friend tells how Sister Martha's many kindness and compassion helped her through the illness and death of her mother. Sister had taught this friend's child and often volunteered as a baby sitter. "I will never forget," said the friend, "on the same day my husband brought me home from the hospital with my fourth child, he got word of being transferred to Columbus, Ohio." Sister Martha helped them with the problem of finding a new house in the dead of winter by staying with the three older children while they went house hunting. "She is a very beautiful person, a person who truly lives out her calling

and vocation." "In my estimation," said another friend, "the word 'friend' sums up her qualities. She is true, honest, and willing to share whatever is hers."

In 1990 Sister Martha retired at the Immaculate Conception Convent in Celina, Ohio where she did substitute teaching and at the pastor's request visited the sick parishioners — walking to their residences.

Six years later she retired full time at the Minster, Ohio Convent; five years later Martha joined other Sister retirees at Salem Heights in Dayton, Ohio.

Martha loved to do crafts. She crocheted afghans, did needle point and gained much fame for her ceramic pieces. In addition she loved to read and take long walks. She joined her sister Theresa in traveling extensively while she had good health. In her retirement she learned to play games, especially Free Cell, on the computer and electronically kept in touch with others.

Another motto of Sister Martha was "Do your best. Let God do the rest." Your life, dear Martha, has been a testimony to that. We shall miss you but rejoice with your beginning a new life in heaven. Perhaps the prayer of Sister Elaine Becker, Sister Coordinator at Emma Hall, was answered — that heaven in your first view looked much like Piqua where you always longed to be these past few years. In your new home we ask you to remember to intercede for the needs of your family members and for your Precious Blood Sisters. Now be with your loving God!

— Sister Nancy Kinross