

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Dorothy Marie Dennis

BORN: February 1920

ENTERED CONGREGATION: July 30, 1934

DIED: March 18, 2014

In the early morning hours of March 18, 2014, Sister Dorothy, or as she was affectionately known, Dottie, was called home to Jesus. Dottie was born on February 6, 1920 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Margaret (Sievers) and George Dennis. She was the youngest of ten siblings, all of whom preceded her in death. She attended St. Patrick School and Precious Blood Schools for her grade school education. At the age of fourteen, she left Fort Wayne, came to Dayton to enter the Sisters of the Precious Blood. Dottie's grade school principal, Sister Colette, told Dottie, "that she (Dottie) wouldn't last two years in the convent." Dottie not only lasted two years but she was a faithful Sister of the Precious Blood for almost 79 years.

In 1935, Sister Dorothy entered the novitiate and was given the religious name of Sister Mary Amadea. Two years later she was professed and began her ministry as a Sister of the Precious Blood. For much of her religious life Dottie was a cook, and or housekeeper. She fed and took care of bishops, priests, seminarians, other Sisters, and students. She worked in such varied places as Cincinnati, Phoenix, Rome City, Toledo, Maria Stein, San Luis Rey, and finally in Denver. No doubt, Dottie fed all those she served nutritious and delicious food, but she also fed them with her wonderful sense of humor and shared with them her joy at being alive to the wonders of each new day. Dottie was a woman who liked herself, she knew that she was loved by family, friends, and by the Lord. She radiated that self-confidence and goodness to

those around her.

Beginning in 1975 Dottie's ministry changed. For six years she was the activity director for a nursing home in Denver and then she worked in child care. She became a nanny for some families in Denver. As she put it, "I went from care of the elderly to the care of children." One of the parents' for whom Dottie worked wrote, "We are so thankful for her young attitude, her open mind, her spirituality, and her flexibility (both of body and of schedule!). With two active boys she has been required to be lion, horse, monster, momma bear, and Mary Pop-pins! Wow — what talent!" Another parent wrote, "Sister Dorothy means so much to our family; not only is she a wonderful child-care provider, but also a therapist, a referee, an entertainer, a chef, a librarian, a doctor, a secretary, and more! But most of all, she is our friend."

In 2006, Sister Dorothy moved from Denver to Salem Heights in Dayton to retire. But Dottie could not really retire; she needed and wanted something to do. And so she became the transportation coordinator for the Sisters at Salem Heights. She faithfully made sure that there was a car and driver available to take a Sister to their Doctor's appointment. She performed this ministry until her move to Emma Hall in 2013. In reviewing her years of ministry Dottie once said, "Everywhere I have been has something precious and special about the people and places."

Sister Dorothy's interests were many and varied. She liked to learn. She

earned certificates in biblical studies, gerontology, and cake decorating, to name a few. She took on new challenges. She learned to play bridge and enjoyed that card game immensely. She knitted, crocheted, and took up weaving. She loved music, even learning to play the recorder. She bowled and liked other sports. She loved nature. She hiked, fished, camped and sometimes she just basked in the sun. Dottie was never far from a book. She read, and read, and then she would read some more. Where Dottie went, there would be a book. Friends would stop by and help her with a jigsaw puzzle, there was always one being assembled in her room. Dottie lived life fully.

A Sister of the Precious Blood once wrote that, "Dottie was a fun-loving person. She believes in living life and not just in accomplishing things. She has faith in her own beauty and goodness as well as in that of others. You felt comfortable in her presence; she had a way of putting you at ease and allowing you to be who you are".

When asked what being a Sister of the Precious Blood means to her, Dottie wrote, "It is a wonderful way of life in serving God and his people. It means living with unique Sisters, enjoying their company, praying with them as we journey to the Lord." Dottie, you have completed your journey. I am sure that you and Jesus have already shared a funny story and that you have checked a book or two out of the heavenly library. Thank you Sister Dorothy for a life well lived.

— Sister Linda Pleiman