

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Mary Lea Glaser

BORN: April 1936

ENTERED CONGREGATION: January 21, 1955

DIED: January 22, 2010

TODAY we celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Mary Lea Glaser. We extend a special welcome to her brother, Tom, and her sister, Barbara, as well as other relatives and friends who are present here with us.

Mary Ruth Glaser was born in April 1936, in Dayton, Ohio, the youngest of the three children of Walter Glaser and Marguerite Antoinette (Toni) Rathweg. She grew up in the area of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, and attended grade school there. On the hillside of the parish grounds there is a statue of Our Lady which she visited often and where the Memorare became her favorite prayer. Her high school years began at Julianne (now Chaminade-Julienne) but were completed at Precious Blood High School, the aspirancy of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. However, Mary Ruth's first introduction to the sisters was at the Shrine of the Sorrowful Mother at Bellevue, Ohio. She continued her relationship with the sisters by corresponding with Sister Bernice Krieg, who also invested her as a novice in 1955 when she received her religious name, Sister Mary Lea.

Sister Mary Lea received a bachelor's of science degree in education from the University of Dayton. Some years later she attended Sinclair Community College and became certified in Ohio as a Resident Activity Coordinator.

After her profession of vows in 1957,

Sister Lea began her teaching ministry. For 31 years she taught in Catholic elementary schools at Queen of Angels and Precious Blood, in Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Francis Xavier in St. Joseph, Mo.; and in Ohio, at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Cleveland; Saints Peter and Paul, Ottawa; Immaculate Conception, Celina; St. Margaret Mary, North College Hill; and Resurrection, Dayton. She concluded her teaching career just across the street, at Precious Blood Parish.

In addition to teaching the required curriculum, Sister Lea used her special music skills to enrich the lives of many students. Her choral groups, singing in four part harmony, amazed everyone. Mentioning Sister Lea's name was synonymous with music. Her love of sports led her to coach school teams and sometimes she also tried to educate sisters about the basics of different games. During one teaching session one of the sisters exclaimed, "They made a home run!" The game was football.

After leaving the classroom, Sister Lea launched her ministry with adults, in which she was able to use many of her varied talents. For close to six and one-half years she directly engaged her creative, compassionate and joy-filled personality as Activity Coordinator at the Maria-Joseph Living Care Center. Sister Lea found her niche and satisfaction in this ministry and gave herself generously in meeting others' needs, listening to them and trying to lift their spirits.

In February of 1997 Sister Lea transitioned to serving as driver and then transportation coordinator for the Sisters at Salem Heights but continued to engage in volunteer work at the Maria Joseph Living Care Center, especially in the Alzheimer's unit. Real retirement followed this ministry — although Sister Lea never retired from loving the people she served.

Each of us remembers Sister Lea from a different color of the prism of light that she reflected: her singing, her being friend, her concern for those who needed consoling or understanding and her love for birds. From her own life's journey she became a beacon of hope for others.

Just a few days ago on January 21, Sister Lea completed 55 years as a Sister of the Precious Blood. On her 50th anniversary Lea remarked: "No, this does not seem like 50 years. But, since I have received notice of that, I am going to celebrate!"

During the last several years we have been losing Sister Lea little by little because of Alzheimer's disease. Today we are saddened by the loss that we feel in our hearts but are gladdened by the thought that she is relieved of her sufferings and rests in the eternal embrace of God.

We love you, Lea, and miss you...

— Sister Madonna Ratermann