

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Cecilia Ann Goldschmidt

BORN: September 1916

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 14, 1938

DIED: March 4, 2012

TODAY we celebrate the faithful life of Sister Cecilia Ann Goldschmidt. Born Olivia Elfrida in September 1916, she was called Elfrida to parents Xavier Goldschmidt and Catherine (Kern) Goldschmidt in Minister, Ohio. Sister Cecilia Ann was baptized four days later. She was the second youngest of twelve children.

As a freshman she attended Minister High School, as sophomore she attended Vandalia High School, and completed her junior and senior year at Precious Blood High School. She had worked before entering the Sisters of the Precious Blood on Aug. 14, 1938. When asked why she wished to enter the Congregation, she simply stated "I feel it is my vocation."

As a Postulant her class searched the field next to the Novitiate for small boulders to help build the Lourdes Grotto. Afterwards they discovered that the boulders had lost their identity in the foundation. Upon entering the Novitiate she was given the name Sister Mary Cecilia. In 1967 when

name changes were occurring Sister Cecilia changed her name legally to Sister Cecilia Ann.

She received her degree in Education from the Athenaeum in Cincinnati. She taught in the middle and upper grades in the Elementary Schools in Fort Wayne and Rensselaer, Indiana, and in Norwood, Hamilton, and Cleveland, Ohio. She also taught in New Riegel and Maria Stein, Ohio public schools. Her teacher supervisors gave her high compliments on her fine order, good planning, use of the chalkboard, and opportunity for real thinking and creativity. After retiring from teaching Sister Cecilia spent one year at the Maria Stein Convent, then three years at the Cardinal's residence in St. Louis. She concluded her career serving in the U.S. Post Office at Maria Joseph Center for seventeen years.

Her friends praised Sister Cecilia Ann as prayerful, hard-working, loyal, the strong silent type. Her ready-smile and quiet ways with her quick wit and deep mind are endearing qualities loved by all. Her hobbies were reading, good music, and gardening. It is for

her gardening that she was most famous. In early spring, all her spare time was devoted to her special plot of land where she planted onions, tomatoes, pickles, and lettuce. Plants responded to her touch, and she always enjoyed the "great outdoors." Much of her produce at the time of harvest helped the "House of Bread" and other missions. One Sister said "When the aroma of pickles being canned penetrated the recreation room, we knew that Sister Cecilia Ann was busy. Making grape jelly was also a specialty of hers."

Another Sister said, "In her own quiet way Sister exemplified a real Sister of the Precious Blood. Through her devotion to the Eucharist, the Lord's Precious Blood, and Mary, Sister Cecilia Ann's prayer, kindness and helpfulness flowed as naturally as blood.

Sister Cecilia Ann is preceded in death by all her siblings: Joseph, Victor, Josephine, Henry, Anthony, Clara, Gilbert, John, Sister Catherine Frances S.N.D., Frances and Paul.

— Sister Mary Yarger, C.P.P.S.