

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Marie Renee Hoehn

BORN: July 1929

ENTERED CONGREGATION: July 1, 1945

DIED: August 12, 2014

On the occasion of her 50th Anniversary as a Sister of the Precious Blood, Sister Renee wrote, "As a member of the Congregation I feel privileged to have been called, and will do all in my power to live out this calling in whatever way I am able." She faithfully lived out her calling, ministering untiringly, while garnering strength from her reverence and respect for God. Prayer time with the Lord nourished her life as a Sister of the Precious Blood for sixty-nine years.

In July 1929, Velma Margaret was the second of six children born to Sylvester and Frances (Gergen) Hoehn in Ottoville, Ohio. Age-wise she was born between her two brothers, Arthur and Donald who died in infancy. Three sisters (Dorothy, Lorene and Eileen) followed. This close knit family happily lived on a 120 acre farm. Often when Velma's father would go to the barn to milk the cows, little Velma would follow him begging for warm milk as she held up a tin cup.

When in the second grade, she was sure that at her First Holy Communion Jesus would grant whatever she asked. So she asked Him for something special. She asked to become a Sister and help little children who would be placed in an orphanage. "This desire," wrote Sister Renee later in life, "never left me." By the time she was in the eighth grade, she was invited to work at Rome City where the Sisters of the Precious Blood owned a Sanitarium called Kneipp Springs in Indiana. This deepened her longing to become a Sister, and on July 1, 1945 she officially entered the Congregation of

the Sisters of the Precious Blood. She made first vows in 1948 and final vows in 1951. Her given name in religion was Sister Marie Renee Hoehn.

Her first assignment came as a surprise — she wasn't called to an orphanage but rather to St. Mary's grade school in Phoenix, Arizona where she was to teach the second grade. In fact all 47 of her years as an educator she taught either first or second grade in Phoenix; St. Joseph, Mo; Escondido, Ca; Ft. Wayne, Ind. and in the Ohio cities of Bellefontaine, Centerville, Celina, Columbus Grove, New Riegel, North College Hill, Wapakoneta and Dayton.

Said the Sisters who taught with her, "Sister Marie Renee and teaching belong in the same breath." They described her as "kind, patient, but still demanding the best efforts of her students with gentle persistence and consistency ... Hers was a classroom of love where she taught her first graders by word and example to want to learn." One of Renee's favorite tasks was correcting papers, for she loved the creative and unique ways in which the children expressed themselves through words and pictures.

Renee was creative in the classroom and also in liturgical celebrations, parish/school programs, faculty celebrations and convent gatherings. She was very generous to others and she never was a quitter. "Never did she give up," said a former principal, "there was always one more thing to try and one more chance to give and she usually was a winner."

Her wonderful life as a teacher of little ones was followed by her generous help

at the Maria-Joseph Center in Dayton, Ohio beginning in 1995. She served in the Post Office located in the Center, as well as helped in the General Store and assisted with our infirmed Sisters who resided on the Emma Hall floor in the Center. "I was always happy to do whatever needs to be done," said Sister Renee, "because I feel as if I touch God in a unique way when I minister to these wonderful women."

Sister retired at Salem Heights in Dayton, Ohio in 2003 where she continued volunteering whenever she was able. When relaxing, Renee enjoyed listening to inspirational music, crocheting and working with plastic canvas, calligraphy and watching game shows on TV.

She and her birth family always kept in touch. In the latter years her three younger sisters & their families were faithful to visiting her. With her sisters she often had four-way conversations over the phone as well as writing to each other. She was inspired by them as they were by her. A beautiful family relationship was evident.

Because of failing health Sister Renee took up residence in Emma Hall in the Maria-Joseph Center. On August 12, 2014, Sister was gently called by her Lord who was, as she always exclaimed, "the Stronghold of my Life."

And today, Sister Renee, your convent family and your birth family join together in celebrating your life among us and your life dedicated to serving God's People as a Sister of the Precious Blood.

— Sister Nancy Kinross