

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Magdalen Hutmacher

BORN: March 1920

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 10, 1944

DIED: October 19, 2012

We gather here today to celebrate the life of our dear Sister Magdalen Hutmacher, a prayerful and devoted Sister of the Precious Blood for 68 years.

Magdalen was born in March 1920 to Valentine and Frances Hutmacher. Her family lived on a farm just outside of the small village of Fayette, North Dakota. She is the second youngest of seven brothers and eight sisters. Several of her siblings died before they were six years old due to the diphtheria and measles outbreak in the early 1900's.

Magdalen wanted to be a Sister ever since she was 12; however, because she was needed at home, she didn't leave until she was 24 years old. On August 10, 1944, Magdalen entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood and was given the name Sr. Mary Esther. In 1967 Mary Esther returned to her baptismal and legal name.

Magdalene spent most of her religious life in Food Service and Domestic Arts. Besides cooking, she developed a specialty in baking. Her culinary gifts are widely known. Her delicious cookies, rolls, pies, breads and other pastry items are her trademark from the days of her first ministry at Salem Heights, to Lourdes Hall, Brunnerdale Seminary, San Luis Rey Academy, St. Thomas

Seminary, and finally St. Leonard Center, Dayton, Ohio. One of her co-workers said "Maggie excelled in many areas. I found her to be a dedicated, happy person."

After spending a total of 19 years at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver, Colorado, she returned to Ohio in 1983. Magdalen and three other sisters were the first ones to live at St. Leonard Center. From 1983-1990 she worked in the kitchen and bakery, but when her knees could no longer take the long hours of standing, she took up sewing and tailoring. Maggie was an excellent seamstress. She not only made clothes for herself, but also made new outfits for others, including a wedding dress. In addition, she mended and altered clothes for those residents who had no one to help them. Her favorite saying bears out the quality of her life and ministry, "What is worth doing, is worth doing right."

In 1994, when Magdalen celebrated her Golden Jubilee at a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Leonard's, Chaplain Father Jim Van Vurst, OFM, thanked her for her fifty years of dedication and service. In his homily he said, "We celebrate with you this day, Sister Maggie, and thank God for you and your care and presence in our midst. I want to tell you that God is celebrating and thanking you even as you thank him. You gave him the greatest gift anyone can give ... the gift of yourself." Father Jim must have thought very much of Maggie because he had given her two of his original oil paintings which she had hanging

on her wall at Emma Hall.

In 1997, when Maggie finally retired at Salem Heights she said, "I'm home!" It really felt like home to her. She says the highpoints of her life are her investment and profession days and when she won \$1,000 at Bingo. Maggie continued sewing for the sisters and enjoyed her two favorite pastimes – bingo and pinochle.

In 2003, Maggie was transferred to Emma Hall, but she still did some sewing, a little card playing, and a lot of praying. On her 60th anniversary, she said "I am grateful for having been a Sister of the Precious Blood. I appreciate the support and companionship of the Sisters. It is good to be a part of a loving and caring community. God has been good to me these sixty years. I love him and am looking forward to meeting him in my heavenly home."

Maggie was a prayerful woman. Often when I would visit her at Emma Hall, she was praying the rosary. She said that she prayed three rosaries a day. A simple little prayer of Maggie underlies all her actions, "All for you, Jesus; Mary help us, help me pray, help me do my work." Maggie, for the quiet and generous life that you lived, striving for excellence and dedicating your life to God so faithfully for sixty-eight years, we say "Thank you."

— Sister Cecilia Taphorn, CPPS