

## IN MEMORIAM



# Sr. Amy Marie Junk

BORN: July 1942

ENTERED CONGREGATION: January 1, 1961

DIED: November 20, 2016

**W**e gather today to celebrate the life of our dear Sister Amy Junk, a faithful and devoted Sister of the Precious Blood for 55 years.

Ann Marie was born on July 14, 1942 to Edward Junk and Maryellen Christle in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She was the oldest of 11 children. She is survived by her brothers Thomas, James, Michael, Stephen, and Richard and her sisters Susan, Rose, and Kathleen. After graduating from Fatima Hall in 1960, she entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood at the age of 19. Ann Marie was given the name Sister Amy Marie, which she decided to keep since it was so similar to her baptismal name.

Music was a special gift in Amy's life. In 1967 she received a Bachelor of Science in Education with a minor in music. For 12 years Amy taught music in elementary schools in Ft. Wayne, Indiana; St. Joseph, Missouri; Linton, North Dakota; and Kalida, Ohio. In 1979 she studied at St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana and graduated with a Masters in Liturgical Music. She then served five years as a pastoral team member and director of music and liturgy in Saginaw and Clarkston, Michigan as well as in Sylvania, Ohio.

Amy wrote in one of the *Sharing & Caring* newsletters, "Each day brings a different challenge, a new insight or a new

way to grow – letting God work through me so that the people I serve can see how God is working through them."

In 1990 Amy enjoyed a sabbatical year of personal renewal at Sangre De Christo Center, in Santa Fe, New Mexico followed by a year of studies in music therapy. Amy was Board Certified in Music Therapy and served the next eight years as a music therapist in two different health care centers. Amy said, "There are times that I'm called on to lead a communion service or a vigil service the night before a funeral. Sometimes I just need to listen to someone who needs to talk. At times I am a resource person to someone else on the staff."

"Music helps with communication, Sister Amy said. "Singing also helps with relaxation and breathing." She has found that music therapy is particularly beneficial for patients who suffer from Alzheimer's, dementia and long term memory loss. From 2010-2012 she served as a volunteer and GED instructor at Cherry Street Missions Ministries in Toledo, Ohio where she was a gentle and loving presence to the poor and homeless. She had a deep spirit of prayer and compassion and conscientiously tried to be open to where the Spirit was leading her. Creating a balance of leisure, prayer, and work was always important to Amy.

A friend says "Amy likes simplicity, organization, fresh air, plants, classical

music, solitude and walking. She has the courage, the tenacity to survive the hard times in life. She knows that even if the organ goes out in the middle of the Easter Vigil Mass, there is still, somehow, going to be music."

Friends describe Amy as kind and gracious and as one whose own needs are simple. At times those needs are very special, like the organ bench needing to be cut down to allow the feet of this five-foot musician to reach the organ pedals.

In the last several years Amy was actively involved in Vocation Ministry through being a mentor Sister, working on committees, doing social media and correspondence as well as participating in CPPS vocation events. A Franciscan Sister from Sylvania, Ohio recently commented on Amy as being a very gifted woman with a huge heart.

After Amy moved to the Orchard House in 2015, she continued to use her skills in music therapy at Emma Hall where she enriched the lives not only of our elderly Sisters but also the lay residents by sharing her gifts of music in her own special way.

Sister Amy, you have touched so many lives serving God as a Sister of the Precious Blood. May the angelic choirs accompany you on your journey to eternal peace.

— Sister Ceil Taphorn