

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Elizabeth Kammerer

BORN: May 1926

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 12, 1945

DIED: June 15, 2014

On the occasion of Sister Elizabeth Kammerer's 60th Anniversary as a Sister of the Precious Blood, she wrote: "In Mathew 19:29 Jesus promises 'Whoever leaves mother and father for my sake and follows me will be blessed a hundredfold.' Actually, I think Jesus underestimated himself! As I reflect back over my sixty years of religious life, I realize how very blessed I have been."

Betty Clare was born in Norwood, Ohio in May 1926 to William and Clara (Nierman) Kammerer. She was greeted by a sister, Dorothy, and a brother William, Jr. whose mother had died at childbirth and whose widower father had married Betty's mother. This happy family grew once more with the birth of their sister, Lois.

Sister Elizabeth exclaimed that her parents were wise beyond their years as she wanted to enter the Congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood right after high school but they insisted that she work at least a year to get experience. Betty Clare, at the age of 19, entered the Congregation on August 12, 1945 and was welcomed by her Sister Dorothy who was already a member of the Congregation and had the name of Sister M. Fidelia.

Betty received the religious name of Sister M. Germaine and later on changed

back to her baptismal name, as did so many other Sisters after Vatican II. Sister Elizabeth had a special love of the Congregation. "At times," she said, "I am awed at the continual love and support I receive from so many Sisters in our Congregation. Truly a Gift!"

Sister's spirit of prayer was known by her Sisters who said of her, "Her God comes first in her life." It was evident that her enjoyment of life was nurtured by her fidelity to prayer. Each day offered Elizabeth a new opportunity to be faithful and to recommit herself to the one who anchored her heart. Her prayer life enabled her to face the difficulties and challenges of her ministry with openness, prudence and discernment.

Sister was an educator for 23 years, teaching grades 4-8 in Meza, Ariz., in San Luis Rey, Calif. and Falls Church, Va. The last seven of those years she served as principal. Her efficiency, enthusiasm and reliability made her a good administrator. Her Congregation called her to serve as their Southern Region Superior from 1966-1971. Afterwards Elizabeth entered the relatively new field for women, pastoral ministry, in Detroit, Mich., serving under Cardinal Dreardean. Seven years later, Archbishop Bernardin personally invited her to serve as Vicar for Religious in the Cincinnati Archdiocese. Always busy, never finished, Elizabeth was invariably ready for the next challenge.

Following her six years as Vicar, Sister Elizabeth served at the Congregations' retreat and shrine in Maria Stein, Ohio where she joined the retreat team and later took up duties at the shrine as secretary and then coordinator of fund development, all the while giving Spiritual Direction. "I couldn't," said Elizabeth, "thank God enough for my time in Maria Stein ... this has been a ministry I liked the best — to be able to walk with others on their spiritual journey in their search for God ... this was an awesome privilege."

In her play time, Elizabeth enjoyed traveling, reading, word puzzles and card games, especially Nickles. She found delight in watching and feeding the birds and was ready to create a party for any reason! She was known for her ready smile, her great sense of humor and her love of Dairy Cream ice cream.

In 2005 she retired at Salem Heights in Dayton, Ohio. She fondly recalled the many persons with whom she journeyed during the years and who had "enriched and touched her life beyond her wildest dreams." Because of failing health she moved in 2014 to the Maria Joseph Center. Just a few months later her closest Friend, God, called her to Himself. Elizabeth, not only have you realized how very blessed you have been; we too realized how very blessed we also have been having you as sister in our lives. Go with God dear Sister Elizabeth!