

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Frances Kleman

(Sister Mary Caritas)

BORN: September 1922

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 4, 1940

DIED: September 6, 2009

TO DAY we celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Frances Kleman, also known to many of us as Sister Caritas. We especially welcome her sisters Eleanor and Alice, and her brothers Harry and Arthur, as well as their spouses.

The Kleman household was already bustling with the activity of two boys and two girls when baby Frances was born in Glandorf, Ohio, to Louis and Elizabeth Kreinbrink Kleman on September 1922. Four brothers and two sisters were yet to join the family.

Frances began her education at Glandorf, but when she was seven the family moved to Ottawa. It was there that she completed her elementary and secondary education at St. Peter and St. Paul School under the tutelage of the Sisters of the Precious Blood.

Frances continued her educational pursuits and obtained a bachelor's degree from the Atheneum of Ohio and a master's degree from Xavier University in Cincinnati. In addition to these degrees, Frances continued to enrich herself with additional college courses and many workshops.

On Aug. 4, 1940, Frances entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. She credits her father as being the greatest influence in this decision as he had a tremendous love and respect for the sisters, especially Sister Simplicia McGreevy, one of his teachers. Under the guidance of Sister (later Mother) Nathalia Smith, Frances completed her novitiate and entered the active ministry of the Sisters of the Precious Blood.

For 26 years Frances taught in both elementary and high schools in: Fort Wayne and Lafayette, Ind.; Cincinnati, Dayton, Celina, and Wapakoneta, Ohio; and Sedalia, Mo. In 1969, Frances moved into administrative positions. She was secretary/treasurer and regional director of the Northern Region of the congregation; director of Maria Stein convent; manager of low-income housing and homes for the elderly in Columbus and Toledo, Ohio, and Detroit, Mich.; and executive director of the Maria Anna Brunner Fund.

After more than 50 years of ministry, Sister Frances retired in 1998. However, even here Frances was mindful of service: she coordinated, to name but two, projects at Salem Heights: the cancelled stamp project [which raised money for the missions] and crocheting innumer-

able hats and caps for distribution to the poor. One of the nurses at the hospital told me that during her final illness, Sister Frances was moving her hands as she slept — in a manner resembling a person crocheting.

Frances is remembered by some of her younger siblings as a hard worker around the family farm and as an avid reader who wanted everyone in the family to become excellent readers as well.

Some community members record that they saw Frances as a woman of deep faith with a sincere commitment to God and others, a wisdom figure, an advocate for social justice and an example of simple consistency. Her relaxation time was often spent in reading, doing jigsaw puzzles, or sharpening her mind with crossword puzzles.

Sister Frances was unable to regain her strength from a debilitating stroke; it was then that God decided to invite Frances to be a resident of heaven. Her transfer into the hands of God was a most peaceful passage. She simply slept into eternal happiness.

Frances, rest in God's presence forever!

—Sister Madonna Ratermann