

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. M. Carolyn Link

BORN: August 1927

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 13, 1944

DIED: April 17, 2011

TODAY we have gathered to celebrate the entrance into eternity of Sister Carolyn Link. Anyone who knew Carolyn will remember that she loved science fiction, whether on the page of a book or on the silver screen. Last Sunday at 7:45 a.m., Carolyn leaped into space and traveled “farther than any man has gone” and landed in the arms of the God she loves so intensely. We feel her loss but rejoice in her heavenly reward.

Dorothy Ann—the name “Dorothy” means “gift of God”—was the fourth of six children. With us today is her brother, Father Mark, S.J., and her sisters Rosemary and Gertrude. Already in eternity are two brothers, Anthony and Father Paul, CPPS, who we are sure have excitedly welcomed their beloved sister.

Carolyn herself recalled on the occasion of her 60th anniversary that she felt the call to religious life while in the seventh grade. It was after her junior year in high school that Dorothy Ann entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood in 1944. [When she received the habit] she was given the name Carolyn, a name she chose to carry all her religious life.

With profession, Carolyn was assigned in turn to five elementary schools in the states of Missouri, Arizona, and Ohio, where she enjoyed teaching history, English, and creative writing. In 1958 she taught at St. Mary’s High in Phoenix; this was followed in 1961 by a six-year term at Regina High School in Norwood, Ohio. In 1967 Carolyn was assigned to San Luis Rey, a boarding and high

school in Oceanside, California. Here she was principal until 1977 when the school, to her sorrow, was closed.

As a teacher, Sister Carolyn was one of the best and most loved. She loved history and could bring that same love to her students. Her professionalism was never in doubt. Those who knew and lived with Carolyn remember her fondly. “She was a warm, understanding person and ahead of her time in many ways,” said one, Sister Florence Seifert. Another, Sister Eleanor McNally, said: “I see in Carolyn her mother’s beautiful qualities of concern for others.”

With San Luis Rey closing, Sister Carolyn went a few miles down the road to San Diego where she held several important positions. She was secretary to the Sisters’ Senate [a group representing the women religious of the diocese]; secretary to the Diocesan Pastoral Council; and associate vicar for religious of the diocese. She evidenced her literary skills, writing a monthly column, “Reflections,” for *The Southern Cross* diocesan newspaper. She wrote both the sisters’ newsletter and the Diocesan Pastoral Council newsletter.

In 1984 Sister Carolyn returned to Salem Heights where first she was secretary of the congregation and then elected to the congregation’s general council. Sister Florence Seifert, current president, was also president at that time. She wrote of Sister Carolyn: “What a gift she was! As before, her prayerfulness, commitment to religious life and her love for the congregation were very evident. She was level-headed and insightful, straightforward and honest,

loyal and hardworking.”

After her service at Salem Heights came the spiritual years deep into Navajo land in northern Arizona, where God’s beauty graces every crimson rock and every snow-covered peak. For eight years Carolyn lived at the Desert House of Prayer at St. Michael’s, serving on the retreat house staff for the last seven.

Sad was the day Carolyn left this beautiful land as ill health was looming, and so she returned to Salem Heights where she lived for 11 years. In a letter she wrote at that time to Sister Eleanor McNally, she said, “I am still happy here but I feel like I lost out on a lot because my memory is gone away and I don’t know where it went! That’s the way it is!”

Among Carolyn’s many ministries, where was she happiest? She answered this question on the occasion of her 60th jubilee, when she wrote: “My favorite job, the one I liked the best, was being administrator and coordinator for the sisters at Salem Heights. I was here five wonderful years. The sisters were always so kind, thoughtful and good. To me there was no reason not to like what I was doing.

“I have always had a great love for the congregation and gave Mother [Maria Anna] Brunner the central place in the foundation of our congregation. Through the years I have come to cherish more and more the movement of God’s spirit in my life.”

And that’s the way it is!

—Sister Eleanor McNally