

*IN MEMORIAM*



## Sr. Elizabeth Ann (Betty) Massarek

(Sister M. Irmina)

BORN: February 1928

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 12, 1945

DIED: January 6, 2010

**T**ODAY we celebrate the Mass of Christian burial for Sister Elizabeth Ann Massarek, better known as Sister Betty. We are very happy to have with us Sister Betty's nephews, Michael Davis and Tom Price, the choir of Precious Blood Parish, and other friends.

Sister Betty was born in Richmond, Va., in February 1928. She grew up with her parents, Ferdinand and Johanna, and her older sister Patricia. Since her parents wanted a Catholic education for Patricia and Betty, her dad asked for a transfer to Celina, Ohio, where the girls attended Immaculate Conception church and school. It is there that Betty met the Sisters of the Precious Blood. Almost 65 years ago she entered our congregation on Aug. 12, 1945. A year later she received the name of Sister Mary Irmina, and on Aug. 15, 1948, made her profession of vows.

In her own words, Sister Betty described her life in three phases, want-

ing to make a difference in the lives of children and adults as a woman religious. The first was being a teacher. She found it exciting to educate the children in different places she served: Mesa and Phoenix in Arizona; Ottawa, Columbus Grove, North College Hill, Coldwater, Minster, Celina and Dayton in Ohio; St. Joseph, Mo; Manteca, Calif.; and Falls Church, Va. The Daily Standard, newspaper of Celina, featured Sister Betty in an article because she returned to teach in the same school which she had attended as a child.

After Sister Betty had open heart surgery, she entered the next phase of her life and ministry, pastoral care. This took her to Fort Wayne, Ind.; Bellevue, Pa.; and the Maria-Joseph Living Care Center, Dayton. It was at Maria-Joseph that Betty passed to her eternal reward on Wednesday, Jan. 6.

Sister Betty was prepared for these ministries by receiving a B.S. in Education from the University of Dayton; a Master of Arts in Education from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee;

and a Masters of Theology for Pastoral Counseling from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. She was a national certified hospital chaplain through the United States Catholic Conference.

On her 60th anniversary as a Sister of the Precious Blood, Sister Betty writes that the third phase of her life, retirement, came about as the result of declining health. Even then, she continued to be as active as possible by volunteering in Precious Blood Parish and Maria-Joseph.

During her life, Sister Betty struggled with different issues and health problems. These have passed, and now she rests in the loving arms of God where she always felt loved and knew she was precious. We remember her beautiful smile, and rejoice that she is now embraced by God!

Thank you, Betty, and may you rest in peace!

—Sister Marita Beumer