

## IN MEMORIAM



# Sr. Margaret Lucille Morris

(Sister M. DePorres)

BORN: January 1928

ENTERED CONGREGATION: November 17, 1946

DIED: October 9, 2016

**T**his morning we gather to remember and celebrate the life of our dear Sister Margaret Morris, a dedicated Sister of the Precious Blood for 68 years.

Margaret Lucille Morris was born on a bitter cold morning in January 1928. She was the eldest daughter of James Morris and Helen (Schick) Morris. Margaret and her sister Dorothy began life as Hoosiers, born in Dunkirk, Indiana. Margaret was a city girl, living on “a busy corner in downtown Dunkirk,” until the birth of her sister, when the family moved to a bigger home with land on the outskirts of town. It was here that Margaret first recognized the beauty of the Earth and came to appreciate the awesome love of her Creator.

Sister Margaret’s mother was a woman of deep faith. She was a role model for her children and the inspiration that led her husband to join the Catholic faith. Margaret had barely become a teenager when her mother began her valiant battle with cancer. Margaret was so inspired by the manner in which her mother accepted her illness, “suffering heroically.” Shortly after Margaret entered high school, her mother passed away. It was through her mother’s suffering and death, that Margaret was first drawn to Precious Blood Spirituality.

Margaret’s father married Georgiana Rawers from Minster, Ohio. Georgiana just happened to have been taught by the Sisters of the Precious Blood, so, when Margaret expressed interest in religious life, it was Georgiana who suggested Margaret visit Salem Heights, and the rest is history. On November 17, 1946 Margaret entered the Congregation. She was given the name Sister Mary DePorres, but later returned to her Baptismal name.

Sister Margaret’s first ministry in education, took her to Precious Blood School in Fort Wayne, Indiana and Queen of Peace School in Mesa, Arizona. However, it was Sister’s deep love for the sacred mystery of the Eucharist that had her devoting many years of service to liturgical ministry. Sister Margaret served as sacristan at Saint Peter in Chains Cathedral in Cincinnati, the Maria Joseph Center and Salem Heights in Dayton. She also served in the Domestic Arts Department at the Maria Stein Retreat center.

In 1981 Sister began work in the Altar Bread Department at the Maria Joseph Center. It was from this ministry that she retired in 1987. Through her work in the Altar Bread Department, she felt continually called to grow ever more deeply in her relationship with God. Sister strived to be a witness to the redeeming love of Christ and to be present to those she encountered each

day. Sister Margaret wrote; “In the Altar Bread Department we witness to the many children, parents, and teachers who came for tours.”

While living in a large community had its challenges, Sister Margaret wrote; “There is present here a stimulation to spirit, soul, and body that I could not achieve alone. No matter where I was missioned,” said Margaret, “each experience of community was unique and cherished.” She felt blessed to be “a part of this ‘heart’” that reaches around the globe in prayer, supporting both near and far our own Sisters and others.

In retirement, Sister Margaret continued her involvement with liturgy and prayer. One of the Sisters wrote; “Sister Margaret’s calm reverent demeanor in the sanctuary always gave evidence of her deep respect for the Divine Presence and her love for Jesus.”

Deep in her heart, Margaret heard the call from her God to firmly root herself in Eucharistic prayer. She answered that call as a Sister of the Precious Blood, giving faithful witness to the redeeming love of Jesus the Christ for 68 years. Today we rejoice and celebrate with Margaret as she dons that radiant smile of hers and takes her seat at the eternal banquet. Be at peace Margaret!

— Sister Patty Kremer