

## IN MEMORIAM



# Sr. Mary Ann Schroeder

(Sister Mary Albert)

BORN: September 1922

ENTERED CONGREGATION: September 7, 1937

DIED: February 22, 2012

**S**ister Mary Ann has been a wonderful example of patience and acceptance in her many years as a Sister of the Precious Blood.

Prior to going blind after having strokes after heart surgery in March, 2001, Mary Ann wrote on her discernment paper: "God is still in charge – trust Him."

Mary Ann was born in Columbus Grove in September 1922, the third of eleven children; seven brothers and four sisters. She lost one sister, Rita, an infant, while she was in the Novitiate. Of the siblings, two sisters, Margaret and Helen remain and two brothers, Harold and Alvin. Her parents were John and Clementine (Hanneman) Schroeder.

"Faithful, firm and true" was the motto of the eighth grade class song of St. Anthony School. "It was good then" writes Mary Ann, "and it still is." Many who lived with her can attest to Sister Mary Ann's having met the challenge with great success. Always quiet and unassuming, she lived her life, caring for others. She was always one to "go the extra mile" so unobtrusively.

Mary Ann comes from a close-knit

family. For several years her sister Helen would visit her with her husband, Jim, and Angelika, their adopted daughter from Germany. In the fall of the year near her birthday, they would take Mary Ann and me to Ottawa to be with her family – brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. We would meet at a local restaurant. About twenty-five of us would gather there and reminisce. We also attended the funerals of three of her brothers – John, Leo and Louis.

In Mary Ann's discernment paper of 1994 we read, "Deeper faith awareness of God's Presence in each person."

Mary Ann and I lived together at St. Anthony Convent, Columbus Grove, from 1992 to 1999. It was in June of 1999 that we closed the convent and moved to Dayton.

In 1994, Mary Ann and Judy Dunn, the deacon's wife, held a weekly Bible Study class for the women of the parish. She also was involved in the prayer chain and assisted the ladies of the parish prepare the luncheons for funerals from St. Anthony's.

In 1995 she writes, "I may not have specific work that I can call my own, but what I do helps others accomplish

more." She kept the house clean and cooked wonderful meals. Many times she visited the church to pray. Again she says, "Sometimes there is very little self-satisfaction, but done in union with the sufferings of Jesus and merits of the Precious Blood, I will be a reconciling, life-giving presence to the parish and with whom I live."

In 1998 she writes, "I see this coming year as a challenge – a greater need in dependence on God's help and surrender to His will – spread peace."

After Mary Ann became totally blind in 2001, she writes, "living the Gospel through prayer, patiently accepting the challenges of each day, offering my suffering for the needs of the Congregation, the Church, and the world."

Mary Ann, I often prayed with you, sang with you, and visited you often during these past eleven years. I said to her often, "Mary Ann, the next person you see with your eyes will be God face-to-face, at the Beatific Vision." You have been an example of love, patience and endurance to all of us through the years.

— **Sister Rosalie Kastner**