

## IN MEMORIAM



# Sr. Bernadine Veit

(Sister M. Ernesita)

BORN: February 1915

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 15, 1931

DIED: January 25, 2011

**W**ELCOME to each of you who have come to celebrate the resurrection liturgy for Sister Bernadine Veit.

Bernadine Marie was welcomed to her home in Wapakoneta, Ohio by her loving parents, Mary Madigan Veit and Joseph Veit, in February 1915. She was one of seven children, six girls and one boy. All her siblings preceded her in death.

At the age of 16, on August 15, 1931, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. At her reception into the novitiate, Bernadine received the name Sister Mary Ernesita. However, she returned to her baptismal name of Bernadine after the Second Vatican Council, as many sisters did.

Following her profession in 1934, Bernadine attended the Athenaeum of Ohio and received her bachelor of science degree in education, and later a master of education degree from Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Bernadine's teaching career spanned 38 years. For 24 of these years she taught in Ohio, in Catholic schools in Bellefontaine, Botkins, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, Miamisburg, and Ottawa; she also taught at St. Mary School in Phoenix, Arizona. She spent 11 years teaching in the Ohio public schools of Burkettsville, Fort Recovery, Minster and Ottoville, and the remaining years as principal in Wapakoneta and Burkettsville.

A unique happening occurred when Bernadine was principal of St. Joseph School in Wapakoneta. She was unsuccessful in filling one of the teacher positions so she resorted to asking Sister Feliciana Pfirrmann, who was retired, to accept this position, which she did. Sister Feliciana was Sister Bernadine's favorite teacher in her freshman year and now Bernadine was her principal.

Sister Bernadine expressed her fondest memories to be her trips to Mexico and Ireland with her sisters, and the pilgrimage she took to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she attended Mass at the Daughters of Charity Provincial House at the same time that the actual canonization of their U.S. foundress, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, was taking place in Rome.

Bernadine was very proud to be able to mention that she had a cousin, Sister Mary Alma, a Mercy sister, and three cousins who were priests — Precious Blood Fathers John Byrne and Hugh Hasson, and Father Paul Doorly, a diocesan priest.

In 1974 Sister Bernadine began a second career, one of Christian service at the Maria-Joseph Living Care Center in Dayton. For five years she was a clerical aide and a dietary assistant in that health care facility.

In 1979 Bernadine retired to Salem Heights where she served as receptionist but kept her connections to the Maria-Joseph Center by volunteering to be a Eucharistic minister. During these days very much of Bernadine's time was

spent in prayer. Her companions told her that she probably spent more time in chapel than any other sister at Salem Heights.

Sister Bernadine moved to Emma Hall in 2006, just a few months before the celebration of her 75th jubilee. Here she found a beautiful chapel titled Queen of Heaven Chapel and was very happy because it fit with her deep devotion to and love for Jesus and his Blessed Mother. The rosary was Bernadine's constant prayer. Even when she was only partially conscious, her lips moved in a rhythm of continuous Hail Marys.

Sister Bernadine chose as her motto in life "service with a smile." No doubt there were days when that smile on the outside was possible only because she loved deeply, knowing how generously Jesus shed every drop of his blood in love for us.

On one occasion Sister Bernadine was asked to reflect on what membership in the Sisters of the Precious Blood meant to her. Her response was, "...living where God dwells among women."

Bernadine, your life now is being a woman dwelling where God is. We rejoice with you and offer our greatest thanks for your faithfulness and service to others as a Sister of the Precious Blood.

Rest eternally in God's embrace!

—Sister Madonna Ratermann