

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Mary Anne Westerheide

BORN: June 1924

ENTERED CONGREGATION: July 26, 1941

DIED: March 15, 2014

It is with great pleasure that I accepted to give this eulogy for Sister Mary Anne Westerheide, who I was privileged to know and appreciate when I accompanied her on her first trip to Chile and for the years after that. Today we welcome her family, friends and students who have come to celebrate with us her life and her new life of resurrection.

As well, I was able to be with Sister Mary Anne these past days as she often repeated, "I'm tired;" "Whatever God wants;" "I'll pray for you, you pray for me," "and I tried to be nice to everyone."

Rosalinda, as Sister Mary Anne was named by her parents, was born in June 1924 in St. Patrick, Ohio to Julius H. and Bernadine (Hoying) Westerheide. Her siblings Irene (Sister Leonita), Leona, Joseph, Alfred, Maurice, and John have preceded her in death. Her twin, Mary (Rosemary) and (Mary Agnes) are with us today. She always talked lovingly of her life on the farm and life in the country with friends, neighbors and schoolmates. I hear that she was very athletic, winning many track meets. The "moving fast" seemed to stay with her.

When Rosalinda was 17 she entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood, following her older sister, Sister Leonita. She

received the name Sister Mary Anne in religious life and presently was in her 73rd year as a Sister of the Precious Blood. Most of us remember Sister Mary Anne as being quiet, unassuming, and gentle, always reaching out to others. When she celebrated her Golden Jubilee she wrote that being a Sister of the Precious Blood meant, "that I am a living chalice, collaborating with the redemption of Christ in my life and in the lives of others." How well she lived this by filling her chalice in contemplation and prayer and pouring herself out for others.

During her years of ministry I was told that Sister Mary Anne not only taught a subject but was very interested in each student as a special person. In the beginning of ministry Sister Mary Anne taught and often at the same time was principal and superior in St. Joseph, Mo., Miamisburg, Norwood and Columbus Grove, Celina, Gerard in Phoenix, and Badin in Hamilton. At different intervals she immersed herself with the Spanish speaking in Language School and experiences which took her to different places in Mexico, such as Saltillo and Mexicali.

Sister Mary Anne joined the Chilean Vicariate in August, 1974. After taking several months for orientation and study, she was engaged in the pastoral

and catechetical ministries in Los Bajos de Agustin, Colegio San Gaspar, Froila Roa, Our Lady of Carmen in Curacavi and San Francisco de Borja. Besides the pastoral duties during many of these years when Sister Mary Anne was in or near the city of Santiago she taught English to employees of different companies as well as in Language Schools.

When Sister Mary Anne herself began to slow down, being semi-retired, she was a compassionate minister to the sick and elderly. She was instrumental in so many of their lives. Sister Mary Anne helped one elderly lady free herself and regain her dignity again so that she felt worthy to receive Holy Communion once again. The lady died two weeks later.

After more than 30 years in Chile, Sister Mary Anne in April of 2005 retired to Salem Heights where she was active in keeping many things clean and in order. As her dementia advanced she moved to Emma Hall/Maria Joseph Center in 2011.

Mary Anne, we thank you for your friendship, for your joy in living the Gospel serving others and for touching so many lives with your compassionate care; yes, being a living Chalice!

— Sister Marita Beumer, CPPS