

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Mary Xavier Schnipke

BORN: April 1917

ENTERED CONGREGATION: June 29, 1935

DIED: June 4, 2007

We celebrate the life of our dear Sister Xavier Schnipke, whose life graced the world for 90 years and our congregation for 72 years. We extend our sympathy to her brothers, William and Thomas, as well as to her sisters, Coletta (Schimmoeler) and Jean (Byrne), who are here with us today along with other family and friends. (Due to health problems, her brother Alfred could not be here, but is with us in spirit.)

In April 1917, John and Frances (German) Schnipke welcomed their daughter, Clotilda. She was the second of four sisters and seven brothers who were raised on a farm outside Kalida, Ohio. Clotilda was taught by the Sisters of Divine Providence from Melborne, Ky., during her grade-school years. After finishing eighth grade she wanted to enter the Sisters of Divine Providence but her father said he would not allow a 13-year-old daughter to marry or to go to the convent. He wanted her to know more about the world before giving her permission.

Clotilda began high school in Kalida but after two years she left school and began working at Brunnerdale Seminary. There she met and admired the prayer and work of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. On June 29, 1935, Sister Clara Ziegler brought 18-year-old Clotilda to Dayton to enter the Sisters of the Precious Blood. When she entered the novitiate, she was given her religious

name, Sister Mary Xavier.

During 50 years of active ministry, Sister Xavier served as cook and dietary supervisor for priests and seminarians, for our sisters and for the elderly at Maria-Joseph Home, which became the Maria-Joseph Living Care Center. Sister Xavier served at St. Gregory Seminary in Cincinnati, at St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Ind., and at St. Charles Seminary in Carthage, Ohio. She served our community at Kneipp Springs in Rome City, Ind., at Salem Heights and at Regina High School in Cincinnati. She spent the last 21 years of her ministry as dietary supervisor at Maria-Joseph Center.

Sister Xavier was known for her cheerful smile, her pleasant disposition, and her desire to make others happy. She knew the secret to reaching people's hearts was through their stomachs, and she delighted in baking cookies, homemade bread, banana bread and Hungarian coffee cake for others to enjoy. A friend, Sister Anne Schulz, describes her as very compassionate and caring. She fondly remembers Sister Xavier and Sister Norma Osterloh preparing delicious meals and treats for the candidate weekends.

Not only could she prepare delicious food, but her delicate, graceful hands created hundreds of quilts, many of them king-size or queen-size, which she sold or gave to raffles for the missions, for the Precious Blood Boutique or for Precious Blood Parish's annual festival. She also knitted caps and scarves for

the poor and afghans for needy infants. Her ability to see a dress and then make it without a pattern was truly a gift to many. Once, within a week, she made ten gowns for a liturgical dance, just from a sample she saw.

Retirement gave Sister Xavier time for more prayer, reading and crocheting. She had a simple faith and was very close to God. Gratitude was a pervasive attitude in her life and many of us heard her thanking community for all that she received. A friend also said that whenever she thought she hurt someone by her words she was humble enough to ask pardon. She was fun to be with and she, Sister Norma, Sister Anne and Anne's mother enjoyed many a vacation together.

In 1995 Sister Xavier moved to Salem Heights from Precious Blood Convent where she had lived for 20 years. In 2002 she moved to Emma Hall where she continued to use her crocheting ability. She enjoyed crocheting lap covers for warming the sisters' legs while sitting in their wheelchairs. It was only weeks before her death that she told Sister Jean René Hoying, [coordinator of sisters' services] at Emma Hall, that she could not do this any more.

Sister Xavier, today we thank you for sharing yourself and your gifts with us. May you be with Jesus, who shares himself in the breaking of bread, and with Mother Brunner, whom you admired for sharing bread with the poor.

—Sister Edna Hess