

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Marlene Voisard

(Sister M. Yvette)

BORN: February 1934

ENTERED CONGREGATION: January 2, 1953

DIED: January 19, 2008

JOYFULLY we gather to remember Sister Marlene's life.... All of us have been gifted by having known Marlene.... We extend our warm and prayerful sympathy to her brother, Ed, and his wife, Pat; her sisters Ruthann, Clara Jane and her husband, John [Kayser]; her nieces and nephews, Vick, Jim, Tom, Deb, Dave and Bob with their families.

Almost 74 years ago, in February 1934, Marlene was greeted into this world by her parents William and Viola (Watren) and her older brother Ed. Although she was born in Dayton, Marlene remembers growing up near Russia, Ohio. She attended Russia Local Public School for all 12 grades, being one of 12 graduates in 1952.

With the inspiration and encouragement of Sister Mary Paul (Mary Alice Wurms), Marlene decided to enter the Sisters of the Precious Blood. On becoming a novice in 1953, she received the name of Sister Mary Yvette. She began her teaching ministry in Linton, N.D., going there on her first train ride. Later she continued enjoying teaching primary grades in Ohio — Wapakoneta, Miamisburg and Coldwater. During this time she also received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Dayton.

In 1975 while in Coldwater, Marlene was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and had to enter early retirement that

same year. For her that meant a new ministry, in St. Marys, Ohio. There she tutored in the school and cooked the evening meal for the sisters. Of her tutoring, it's written that "Sister Marlene's ever-present cheerfulness and her willingness to help students on a one-to-one basis attest to her desire to live a full life, to share what she is and has with others." As for the cooking, we have Marlene's own words: "And guess what, I cooked the evening meal. I had to laugh about me cooking because Mom did it at home, and in the other places we had a cook. It was not hard to cook for the sisters and they 'licked the platters clean.'"

When Marlene came to Salem Heights in 1988 she helped in the altar bread department and with telephone calls [encouraging subscriptions to] *St. Anthony Messenger*.

The saying, "The way you live, is the way you die," was alive and true for Marlene. In 1995 she moved to Emma Hall, where she continued to enjoy being with people and to help in any way that she could. The people of Corpus Christi [Parish in Dayton, where she volunteered when she was able] and the Sisters in Emma Hall have endless stories of her cheerful helpfulness in their need, even looking for people who needed companionship, playing cards with them, praying with them or helping them at mealtime. In recognition of her lifetime pursuit of service to others, she was selected in 1999 as the MS

Ambassador of the year by the Dayton MS chapter, leading off the annual walk "wheeling it."

Marlene was always so grateful and appreciative for each act of kindness. Just recently she invited the sisters and her family to celebrate her 12 years in Emma Hall. This year Marlene confided to her close friend and former second-grade student, Sister Gerri McGeorge, that her ability to move was diminishing. That worsened with the advancement of the lung disease which caused breathing problems. When we were concerned that there might be too many visitors for her in the hospital, she replied, "There are never too many people."

Marlene loved the community and participated in all its events and activities as much as she could. She was a member of the Women of Vision cluster. Many of us were witnesses of Marlene's spirit on her last day on earth as she awaited the Lord's coming, thanking us, smiling and bidding us farewell. Marlene was a sterling example of joyful living.

We thank her for the gift of being a Sister of the Precious Blood for 55 years. We will honor her legacy by living day by day in a spirit of trust and hope!

Thank you, Marlene. Goodbye!

—Sister Marita Beumer