

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Mary Carmencita Voisard

BORN: May 1922

ENTERED CONGREGATION: September 7, 1937

DIED: January 1, 2017

We gather today to celebrate the life of Sister Mary Carmencita Voisard, a faithful and gifted Sister of the Precious Blood for 79 years. "Life is a pure gift of God; live it to the fullest" was Carmen's favorite motto and guiding principle.

Mary Anna Voisard was born in May 1922 to Leo Voisard and Margaret Marchal in Shelby County near the village of Russia, Ohio. Mary Anna was the sixth of eight children; she had two brothers and five sisters. At the age of 15, Mary Anna joined the Congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood as a postulant and received the name of Sister Mary Carmencita, though she is more commonly known as Sister Carmen.

Sister Carmencita's whole life was devoted to the ministry of education. She spent 58 years as a teacher, principal and supervisor of schools. Carmen strongly believed that education was one of the most important ministries for the life and growth of society, and, therefore, devoted all her energies to the formation of youth.

After teaching in Rensselaer, Indiana, as well as in Cincinnati, St. Mary's, and McCartyville, Ohio she received a commission to open Cure d'Ars School in Denver, Colorado. After serving as principal and teacher there for eight years,

she was then asked to be the Supervisor of Schools in the Denver Archdiocese. In 1966 after spending 12 years in Denver, she was elected to the governing body for the Sisters of the Precious Blood and was responsible for supervision of schools where our Sisters taught.

Carmen's interest in quality and innovative education took her to many locations throughout the United States and abroad conducting workshops on new trends in education. After her six years on the Leadership Team of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, she dreamed of starting a preschool program in the empty basement of Fatima Hall. In 1972, after visiting the British Primary Schools in London, England, she opened an Early Childhood Education Center based on the British School model and served there for eight years. The Early Childhood Center she founded continued for an additional 15 years. Looking back years later, Carmen said it was like a dream come true.

In order to be closer to her father who was ill, Sister Carmen was employed as principal in McCartyville. Then in 1993 she moved to Twin Towers in "East Dayton" and volunteered as a substitute teacher in the Dayton Parochial Schools. She retired at Salem Heights in 1998 but still continued serving by driving Sisters to their doctors, helping at the reception desk and singing in the choir. Sister Carmen loved to sing and could always add beautiful alto harmony even in her

declining years.

One of Carmen's fondest memories and highlight of her life was her 30 day personal renewal sabbatical at Shantivanam in Easton, Kansas in preparation for her Golden Jubilee. In her Golden Jubilee biography she wrote that "Being a member of the congregation means that when I chose God as my personal friend I have never had to walk my journey alone."

"Energy, enthusiasm, dedication, creativity, challenge, leadership ... all spell 'Carmen,'" says a good friend. "Never have I known anyone who has the ability of getting involved in so many activities all at one time, and surprisingly, all are accomplished with great success."

Another friend said, "Carmen is definitely an 'enabler.' In her positive way she has a talent for bringing out the best in people ... gifts of which people are completely unaware that they possess."

Sister Carmen, we thank God for blessing us with your presence. Your wit, your engaging smiles, your deep desire to live Precious Blood Spirituality to the fullest, your concern for the young and for those in need around you. Now with your two sisters, Yvonne and Mary Lou, you will be praising God eternally with your beautiful harmony.

— Sister Cecilia Taphorn, CPPS