

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Mary Ellen Andrisin

(Sister Mary de Montfort)

BORN: April 1936

ENTERED CONGREGATION: January 31, 1954

DIED: January 30, 2017

Today we celebrate the life of Sister Mary Ellen Andrisin, a Sister of the Precious Blood for 63 years. At the time of her Golden Jubilee, Mary Ellen said "I have always been inspired by the motto "That not one drop of Christ's Precious Blood be shed in vain. God's love, embodied in the Precious Blood, is overwhelmingly abundant ... and I enjoy sharing it."

Mary Ellen was born in April 1936 to John Andrisin and Genevieve Bradley in Cleveland, Ohio, the oldest of four children. She is survived by her brother Jack and two sisters Michele and Danielle. Next to her own parents, her grandparents had the greatest impact in her life.

In grade school and high school she was inspired by our Sisters who taught at Our Lady of Good Counsel School. Their example greatly influenced her decision to join the Sisters of the Precious Blood.

On January 31, 1954 Mary Ellen formally entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood. She was given the name Sister Mary de Montfort as her religious name; however, like so many other Sisters after Vatican II, she returned to her baptismal name.

Mary Ellen received a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Dayton, a Master of Science with a concentration in earth science from Virginia State, and a certificate from the Theology Institute of St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin.

Her 20-year teaching career took her to St. Joseph, Missouri; Ft. Wayne, Indiana; and Linton, North Dakota as well as to Celina, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Wapakoneta, Ohio. She taught middle and junior high and high school, primarily in the area of science. After receiving a National Science Foundation Grant, she said that her teaching took on new energy and her students began to view the world as she did - a magnificent gift from God to be valued, protected and cherished."

While participating in parish discussions of Vatican II Mary Ellen felt drawn to adult formation and served as the Director of Religious Education for five years at St. Michael's in Independence, Ohio. Opportunities for spiritual growth like renewal programs, Bible studies, directed retreats, pilgrimages and praying in nature truly nurtured her spirit. Throughout her life, Mary Ellen was active on committees, boards, as well as in peace and justice activities and programs.

From 1981-1985 she was the Director of Pastoral Care at the Maria Joseph Center followed by serving as a pastoral minister at St. Mary Parish in Dayton. After her year sabbatical, she devoted the next eight years as Director of Resident Life at Salem Heights. In the year 2000 Sister Mary Ellen became the associate at the Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Belleview, Ohio, where she planned retreats for parish council members and a women's day focused on "God's Creation and Women's Creativity." She also gave retreats centered on God and creation for elementary students. These retreats

gave her an opportunity to combine the best of her studies in earth science with the different religious topics.

While serving at the Maria Stein Center, beginning in 2005, she was responsible for Events and Hospitality and then later served as a Volunteer. "The opportunities to introduce pilgrims to the implications of the Communion of Saints, to share our rich history of Eucharistic prayer and to see people soak up the peace and prayerful spirit of the Shrine was truly a blessing for me," Mary Ellen said.

Mary Ellen was passionate not only about Precious Blood Spirituality, but also ecology, photography, nature and the beauty of God's creation. Throughout her life, she took numerous photos of nature and truly enjoyed making greeting and note cards with them to send to her Sisters, family, and friends.

As Mary Ellen's health declined, she accepted the severity of her illness with a gracious spirit. It was the power of the Precious Blood as well as the support she received from her family, her religious community and her friends that helped her to give herself over to God's loving wisdom in God's time.

Thank you, Mary Ellen, for the many gifts you shared with so many people, and for giving us the example of responding to God's intimate call and presence in your life. May you rest eternally in God.

— Sister Cecilia Taphorn