

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Marjorie Huelsman

(Sister M. Paulita)

BORN: February 1941

ENTERED CONGREGATION: January 1, 1962

DIED: January 30, 2018

We gather today to celebrate the life of Sister Marjorie Huelsman, a gentle and caring Sister of the Precious Blood for 57 years. "I will not forget you. I have carved you on the palm of my hand" was a favorite Scripture passage for Margie. How appropriate for someone who used her hands so well throughout her life both in art and in service to her sisters and brothers. Through the years many of us have come to know and to admire Sister Margie's artistic ability as shown in her paintings, woodcarvings, sketches and designs.

Margorie was born in February 1941 to Louis C. Huelsman and Adeline Quinter in Celina, Ohio. She had one older brother, Louie, who died in 2012. Margie is survived by three nieces and one nephew and numerous great-nieces and -nephews. She attended Immaculate Conception elementary and high schools, where our Sisters taught for many years. At the age of 20, Marjorie answered her call to be a Sister of the Precious Blood and joined the Congregation in 1961. She received the name of Sister Mary Paulita.

Margie was only 2 pounds and 3 oz. at her birth. The doctor feared for Margie and her mother's lives. When Margie was young, she always asked her mother for a baby sister. At the time of her final vows her mother told her, "You prayed for a sister and now you have many Sisters."

Margie remembered that when she was barely old enough to hold a pencil, her mother showed her how to draw a duck and a rabbit. She also watched how her mother drew patterns for her quilts and

the many times her dad worked with wood. No wonder Margie's interest in art developed from an early age.

During her early years in the community, she took various kinds of art classes including painting, printing, sculpture and wood carving. For two years she worked in the Congregation's art department and for another few years taught art classes at St. Mark School in Cincinnati, Ohio. Upon returning to Dayton, she began working with other Sister artists in the community. Margie really came alive when she was asked to work with Sister Eileen Tomlinson in the art department at Salem Heights.

From 1973 to 1978, Margie spent her life as a contemplative Sister at the cloister in New Riegel, Ohio. Sister Margie had a deep faith and contemplative spirit and longed to grow deeper in her love for the Lord.

After leaving the cloister, she lived two years with the Sisters at Our Lady of Good Hope, Miamisburg. It was at that time when I became the principal of Bishop Leibold east and west campuses. When I saw how drab the walls were at the west campus for the lower grades, I asked Margie if she would be willing to use her artistic skills to brighten up the hallways. Before long the school walls came alive with colorful cartoons of Charlie Brown and Disney characters.

In the early 1980s, when Margie was a nurse aide to the Sisters at Salem Heights, she said, "These three years I will cherish all my life and wish others could experience what I did. Here working with our Sisters I learned more of our spirit and prayer than I can ever explain." She spent the next five years at

Maria Stein Center, where she served in food service and management of the gift shop, followed by living at Holy Trinity Convent and cooking for the priests at Holy Trinity Rectory. No matter how busy Margie was, she always found time to enjoy her art work.

At the time of Margie's 25th jubilee, she said, "Being a member of the Congregation means being part of a group of women with a terrific spirit of prayer, sharing whatever they have with each other and all in need."

Margie moved in with her parents in 1990 when they needed full-time care. Margie's experience as a certified nurse aide at Salem Heights enabled her to give her parents good care for many years. Margie was very conscious of living out her Precious Blood Spirituality. In one of Margie's reflections she wrote, "In caring for my mother I meet many people, many situations and each one is in need of healing, faith sharing, and sharing Jesus' redemptive love."

Margie moved to Dayton after her mother died in 2003 and lived at Salem Heights until 2013, at which time she took up residence at the Maria Joseph Center due to failing health. There she continued to share community and prayer with her Sisters and other residents. These past few years Margie's health deteriorated greatly, but if you ever visited Margie, she always had a smile and loved to receive a hug.

Margie, we thank you for sharing your love and compassion with us. We will miss your quiet and prayerful presence and ask you to pray for us.

— Sister Cecilia Taphorn