

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Bernice Krieg

BORN: August 1918

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 10, 1933

DIED: May 5, 2019

We gather here today to celebrate the life of our Sister Bernice Krieg, a dedicated Sister of the Precious Blood for 85 years.

Sister Bernice was a quiet person, yet a person of many talents.

Bernice Appolonia Krieg was born to Mary Laux and Sebastian Krieg in August 1918, in Ft. Recovery, Ohio. She was the oldest of four children. Bernice said she knew from earliest memories that religious life was her calling. She really desired the cloistered life with perpetual adoration and a vow of silence, but her pastor rejected that idea. On August 10, 1933, at the age of 15, she entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood and was given the name of Sister Mary Erwin.

Bernice had many happy childhood memories of growing up on the farm. She learned to do everything from canning fruits and vegetables to unloading bales of hay. School was always a pleasure for her. Can you believe that Bernice had the same teacher for grades one through eight in a one-room schoolhouse?

Bernice received two Bachelor of Science degrees, one in elementary education and the other in theology, as well as a master's degree in education with a major in mathematics.

Her 43 years of teaching took Bernice to all grades from three to twelve, in parochial, private and public schools, co-

educational, and all-girls schools in Ohio and Indiana. Her last 14 years (1969-1983) were spent teaching math at Patterson Co-op and Dunbar High School in the Dayton Public school system.

A woman who works at the Maria Joseph Center had Sister Bernice for math at Dunbar. She said she was the best teacher she ever had. Yes, she was firm but always fair. One of our Sisters also said Sister Bernice was an excellent teacher. In spite of Bernice's intelligence, she was able to teach in such a way that her students could understand the material.

In 1983 at the age of 65, she took up a second occupation: postal clerk at the Maria Joseph Center post office for 13 years, where she had the opportunity to listen, empathize and solve problems. A co-worker in the post office commented on Bernice's fairness in relating to others and stated that "Bernice is very considerate of those who are slower in their work or in making decisions, even though she herself is efficient at both."

After post office hours, she participated in parish activities at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Dayton such as serving on the Worship Committee, leading various prayer services, serving as a lector and Minister of Communion to shut-ins. The Blessed Sacrament was always at the center of Bernice's life. She remembered as a girl running into church during recess just long enough to say "Hi." She and Jesus have remained great friends during her 85 years of religious life.

After retiring to Salem Heights in 2002, Bernice still continued to be an active volunteer at Precious Blood church walking with new converts in the RCIA program and helping with liturgy planning and serving as a lector and Minister of Communion.

Bernice loved parish work, but the time came when she no longer had the physical strength and stamina. In her retirement, Bernice's love for daily community prayer and the Eucharist sustained her through some difficult times. For recreation she loved to play pinochle, read, sew, walk outdoors and listen to soft music. Overall, Bernice lived a simple life and is noted for her longing for peace and quiet.

This past August 27, 2018, was a memorable day for Sister Bernice when her Precious Blood community and her friends and family celebrated her 100th birthday — a day Bernice had looked forward to for a long time.

Sister Bernice lived at Salem Heights until November 20, 2018, 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.

Sister Bernice is now at home with the God she loved so dearly. May she rest in eternal peace.

— Sister Cecilia Taphorn