



Sister Ruth Ann Meyer

BORN: September 1928

ENTERED CONGREGATION: 1946

DIED: September 5, 2022

Sister Ruth Ann Meyer was born in Leipsic, Ohio, in September 1928, to parents Edwin J. and Lenore (Schroeder) Meyer. She grew up on a farm with six brothers and two sisters. After graduating from St. Peter and Paul High School in Ottawa, Ohio, in 1946, she entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Dayton, Ohio. She made first profession in 1949 and made Final Profession in 1952. As a religious she received the name of Sister Mary Giovanni; however, in the 1960s she returned to her baptismal name. Her parents are both deceased. Four brothers, two sisters-in-law, and one brother-in-law are also deceased. The deceased siblings are Robert (Beatrice-deceased), Donald (Dolores-deceased), brothers Melvin and Ralph, and one brother-in-law (Stamos). She is survived by four siblings and four in-laws: Elizabeth; Roy and his spouse, Jean; Elmer and his spouse, Dorothy; and Nancy and her spouse, Donald — as well as sister-in-law Patricia and many nieces and nephews.

In her professional life as a teacher and researcher, Sister Ruth Ann served at many different locations and at different levels. After graduating from St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana, with a B.S. in education, and receiving an M.A. in mathematics at the University of Illinois, she taught at Carroll High School in Dayton for nine years. She set up the math department at Carroll since she was on the original faculty of the school. She taught two years each at Regina High School in Cincinnati and at St. Mary's in Phoenix, Arizona. Prior to that time she taught elementary and middle school classes at St. Mary's in Phoenix and St. Mark's in Cincinnati. In 1972 she received a National Science Foundation Scholarship to support her study at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which led to a Ph.D. degree in mathematics education in 1975. For the next 35 years, Dr. Meyer served within the Department of Mathematics at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, as a professor of mathematics, chair of the department from 1992-1996, and principal investigator of several projects designed to improve the teaching and learning of mathematics within Michigan's elementary, middle and high schools. To support that activity, she and Dr. Robert Laing, a colleague at WMU, garnered more than \$20 million from the National Science Foundation, Michigan Department of Edu-

cation, and other foundations located within Michigan. They also developed numerous materials for use in instructional programs for preservice and in-service teachers. Dr. Meyer's earlier teaching experiences with elementary, middle and high school students in Ohio and Arizona helped to prepare her for her work with preservice and in-service mathematics teachers at Western Michigan University and throughout Michigan.

In addition to her teaching and research experiences at WMU, Dr. Meyer's professional activities and awards include:

- Service as vice president of the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics, giving presentations at international, national and state meetings, including presentations at the International Conference of Mathematical Sciences in Malaysia.
- A sabbatical year in Rio de Janeiro, during which time she served as the mathematics coordinator at an American International School.
- Recognized by the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics for providing outstanding service to mathematics education within the state of Michigan.
- WMU Woman of the Year Award in 1991.
- Recognized by Western Michigan University for her continued research and external funding.

Sister Ruth Ann also served on committees for the Sisters of the Precious Blood. Among these were the Finance Advisory Committee and director of the Maria Anna Brunner Fund.

In 2011, Sister Ruth Ann chose to retire from WMU and move to Salem Heights. She moved to Salem on August 28, 2011. This date and year represented her being a Sister of the Precious Blood for 75 years. She received many messages when she retired from Western Michigan University. One of them from a colleague at WMU conveys the message that reflected what many of them said. It reads: "Ruth Ann, I just heard you are moving on to new things in life. WHAT A GREAT RUN YOU HAVE HAD AT WMU AND IN THE MATHEMATICS EDUCATION COMMUNITY. GREAT SUCCESSES! You have affected so many students and teachers and contributed to the improvement of mathematics teaching and learning in Michigan. SOMETHING TO BE VERY

PROUD OF!"

After she retired to Salem Heights, Ruth Ann volunteered to tutor at Brunner Literacy Center. She also wrote proposals to obtain funding for the center. In a Christmas letter to her family and friends she wrote, "Through my tutoring of adults at the Brunner Literacy Center I am meeting people who come from entirely different circumstances than I experienced at Western Michigan University. It is almost as though they grew up in different worlds than I did. Before the sessions start, the adults often share with me something that has happened in their lives. Recently, two women commented that their husbands were put in jail the previous night. Another woman was concerned about being homeless at the end of the day. Although all tutoring is free, some can't even afford bus fares to come to the tutoring sessions. I hope that I am helping these adults, in at least a small way, to better their lives through their learning basic mathematics." She continued her work at the Brunner Literacy Center until she became ill in July 2016.

Precious Blood Spirituality was very important to Ruth Ann. On the year of her 60th Jubilee she wrote: "The spirituality of the Sisters of the Precious Blood who taught at St. Peter and Paul was an inspiration to me. It was this spirituality that attracted me to our Congregation. Throughout my life I have been trying to grow in Precious Blood Spirituality by being a compassionate disciple and a reconciling presence in an environment which includes many who have no use for God. Nonetheless, I believe that Precious Blood Spirituality is more relevant than ever before in our fractured world of today." I think she would say that what was true then is even more true today.

Today Ruth Ann would have celebrated her 94th birthday. So, Ruth Ann, today instead of celebrating your birthday on earth, we are celebrating your birth to heaven. You have said that your philosophy is that anything worth doing should be done with one's entire being — no halfway measures. You have lived up to that philosophy during your life. You are now enjoying eternal life. Do so with your entire being — no halfway measures! Glory to the blood of Jesus!

— Sister Ann Clark