

IN MEMORIAM



## Sister Rosemary Laux

BORN: September 1923

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 3, 1942

DIED: October 19, 2022

Rosemary Laux was born at home on the family farm in Bryant, Indiana, in September 1923, to Frances (Wellman) Laux and Joseph Laux. Rosemary joined the Laux family as child number eight in a family of nine children. Rosemary enjoyed life on the farm. At a very young age Rosemary learned to milk the cows and was also responsible for bringing the cows home from the pasture.

The family farm was more than a mile from Holy Trinity Church where Rosemary would first come in contact with the Sisters of the Precious Blood, who taught at the two-room (four grades in each room) parish schoolhouse. The Sisters must have made an impression on young Rosemary: It is at this point in her life that, she believed, "the seeds of vocation were planted." Rosemary attended Bryant High School. It was there that she became acquainted with several girls who worked in the summer at St. Mary's Seminary in Norwood, Ohio. Rosemary applied and was hired. This is where she came in contact with the Sisters of the Precious Blood once again and began to think that perhaps

she was being called to be a Sister.

In 1942, at age 19, Rosemary was welcomed into the Precious Blood Congregation by her older sister, Sister Mary Agnella Laux. Rosemary was given the name Sister Mary Columba. Over the years, her skills in the domestic and culinary arts would take her near and far, serving at Salem Heights; St. Joseph Orphanage in Dayton; Brunnerdale Seminary in Canton, Ohio; Archbishop Alter's residence in Cincinnati; St. Thomas Seminary in Denver, Colorado; Maria Stein Retreat House; and St. Peter in Chains Cathedral in Cincinnati.

Leaving her ministry at the Cathedral in Cincinnati, Sister Rosemary returned to Salem Heights to retire. During this time, she engaged in volunteer ministry to Alzheimer's patients in Lourdes Hall at Maria Joseph. In her retirement she continued as an avid prayer warrior, a ministry she had committed a lifetime to.

One could often encounter Sister Rosemary several times a day on her journey to or from the dining room where she would fill her cup three-

quarters of the way with her favorite beverage, coffee. Any encounter with Sister Rosemary would certainly leave you with at least a smile, but most often with full-blown laughter. She had a twinkle in her eye that many times was accompanied by her quick wit.

As Sister Rosemary celebrated her 75th Jubilee, she reflected on her journey as a Sister of the Precious Blood: "Being a member of the Sisters of the Precious Blood means I belong to a large family on a journey to eternity. While on this pilgrimage, we meet people of every race, color and creed: our sisters and brothers in the Lord. . . We are asked to use the gifts God gave us to help our human family, if only by offering a listening ear and keeping their needs before the Lord."

Sister Rosemary's last sentence on her 60th Jubilee page read: "For all that has been, I am grateful, and for what is ahead, I know the one who is walking with me." Well, Sister Rosemary, you have lived a life journeying hand in hand with your God. Today we celebrate your walking with Him.

— Sister Patty Kremer