



## Sister Mary Ann Mozser

BORN: September 1938

ENTERED CONGREGATION: January 14, 1956

DIED: August 31, 2023

Our Sister Mary Ann went home to be with her Lord on August 31, 2023. After many weeks of asking God to take her and wondering why dying was such hard work, she got her wish and died peacefully at Hospice of Dayton.

Mary Ann was born in September 1938, in Cleveland, Ohio. Her father, Michael Paul Mozser and her mother Gizella Meszaros Mozser have preceded her in death; as has her only sibling, her beloved brother Denny. She is survived by her sister-in-law Kathy; cousins; her good friend Sister Martha Eckstein, OSF; many other friends; and her Sisters of the Precious Blood. Mary Ann wrote about her loving family: where every day would begin with a morning kiss and every evening would end with a chat about the day, night prayers, and being gently tucked into bed.

Mary Ann got to know the Sisters of the Precious Blood at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish and School. She loved school and her teachers, and it was there that she discovered her vocation to be a teacher and, later, a Sister. She knew early on that working with children was how she wanted to spend her life.

Mary Ann entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood in 1956 and professed her vows in 1958. She was given the religious name of Sister Rose Michael. Mary Ann began her teaching ministry in various parish schools throughout Ohio, even going back to teach at Our Lady of Good Counsel where years before she was a student. In 1975, she was assigned to teach in Linton, North Dakota. Now, if you know anything about Mary Ann, you know that she is “big-city girl.” The country life of Linton was not for her, so fortunately, she was able to go back to her beloved city of Cleveland a year later. With that move, Mary Ann ministered as the principal of Our Lady of Good Counsel School and later at St. Dominic Parish School in Shaker Heights. She was an excellent leader of the school communities. Under her leadership, St. Dominic was awarded a Blue Ribbon of Excellence by the Department of Education. Also, Our Lady of Good Counsel was the first Catholic school to accept students

who were intellectually challenged. Mary Ann is quoted as saying, “Did Jesus limit His teachings to those who had an I.Q. of 55 or above?” Staff, children, and parents knew that Sister Mary Ann would listen to their concerns and advocate for them.

From an early age, Mary Ann had a tender heart and love for the sick and for those with special needs. Even as she was ministering full-time in parish schools, she would volunteer on the weekends or summers to help the neediest. One year, while working at St. Dominic, she became the volunteer coordinator of the L’Arche community in Cleveland. She even lived at the Community during the week, going home on the weekends. At various times, she would volunteer and for a few years had a full-time ministry at Parma Community Hospital in the emergency department as a patient representative. She and Sister Martha took the Eucharist one Sunday a month to patients at University Hospital.

In 2003, Sister Mary Ann became the Vice President of Mission and Ministry at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center in Cleveland. It was there at St. Vincent’s that Mary Ann was the happiest. St. Vincent’s is a place where people from diverse backgrounds come face to face. Staff with the highest levels of education interact with the homeless, addicted, the uninsured, and the very sick. And in their midst was Sister Mary Ann, encouraging, listening, comforting, and of course, laughing. She understood that each person who walked through the doors of St. Vincent’s was a child of God and so very valuable whether they believed it or not. Her very big heart was stretched, grew more, and sometimes broke a bit during her years at St. Vincent’s, but she knew it was where, as a Sister of the Precious Blood, that she belonged.

God gifted Mary Ann with many talents. And frequently, the leadership of the Sisters of the Precious Blood called upon her to share these with us. She served on many committees. For four years she was chair of the committee that established the CPPS Heritage Mission Fund Corporation. One weekend a month, she and Sister Martha would make the long trip from Cleveland to Dayton. Once the Fund

was established, she served as its chair until very recently.

Mary Ann loved to cook, but hated to clean. She loved trying new recipes. Once she sent Sister Martha to get a special head of Chinese cabbage. Little did she know that one head cost \$36. She was a storyteller — many of us have laughed and cried listening to her stories. To say that Mary Ann was a hard worker is an understatement. Her energy was boundless. But then, Mary Ann was a “people person.” She got more energy the more she was around others. Her classmates and friends would address her as “Mozser.” As in; “hey, Mozser what are you doing,” or “Mozser, let’s get going.” But to Mary Ann you would be honey and she would say it with a twinkle in her eye.

Mary Ann loved the city of Cleveland. She liked its hustle and bustle and all of its diversity. So it was with much reluctance that she and Martha made the move to Dayton to live at Salem Heights in 2021. You can imagine that the Sisters living here at Salem Heights were delighted to have the two of them here. They knew that stories and laughter were coming their way.

Mary Ann once wrote, “I find in my advancing age that my prayer has become one focused on gratitude. I have so much to be thankful for. I know with the assurance of deep faith, that the redeeming love of Jesus expressed through healing and reconciliation has been extended to me in so many ways. My hope and prayer is that I have been a conduit for that same healing and reconciliation in my ministry to others, in my life and service with the Congregation.”

When things did not go quite the way she thought they should go, Mary Ann would say that “God takes care of fools and children.” Meaning she was the “fool.” But you and I, God’s other children, know that she is God’s beloved child and God is taking care of her. Mary Ann, you are home now. You, your parents, Denny, friends and classmates, can kiss, chat about your day, pray, and know that you are being gently tucked into the palm of your loving God’s hand.

— Sister Linda Pleiman