



In Loving Memory

Sister M. Ann Joseph Conradt, SSND

The oldest child of Ellen (McEvoy) and George Conradt was born in Sacred Heart Hospital, Fort Madison, Iowa on September 19, 1927. She was baptized at St. Mary's Church on September 25, 1927 and given the name Shirley Marie. Two younger brothers, Paul and Joseph, and a younger sister, Helen, would join the family.

Shirley attended kindergarten at Lincoln Public School. She was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Mary's Grade School and Catholic Central High School. During her senior year in high school, she began to think seriously of entering religious life after one of her teachers suggested that she might have a vocation. At the annual senior retreat, she received the grace to respond to God's call. Her father was reluctant to give his consent. However, after talking with the pastor, he decided to let Shirley "try it out" with the understanding that she could come home.

Shirley had received a scholarship to Ottumwa Heights College but chose instead to enter the candidature at Sancta Maria in Ripa. With several others, she took the train to St. Louis and entered on August 29, 1945. During the second semester of her second year of candidature, she taught the first four grades at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Chamois, Missouri. She was received into the novitiate on July 28, 1947 and given the name, M. Ann Joseph. She professed first vows on July 29, 1948 and final vows on July 29, 1954.

During the next 25 years, Sister Ann Joseph taught elementary children at St. Martin of Tours and St. Andrew in Lemay, Missouri; All Souls, Overland, Missouri; St. Anthony, Knoxville, Iowa; St. John Baptist, Burlington, Iowa; Christ the King, Corpus Christi, Texas; St. Francis, Teutopolis, Illinois; Sacred Heart, Effingham, Illinois. In most of these places, she was also the organist, liturgist and school music teacher. She was principal at Holy Family, San Diego, California for two years.

Sister Ann Joseph received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the former Notre Dame College, St. Louis, Missouri in 1957 and a master's degree in music education from Arkansas State University in Conway, Arkansas in 1962.

In 1974, Sister Ann Joseph served as religious education coordinator for four parishes in Burlington, Iowa for four years. Following a sabbatical and the care of her mother and sister, she returned to St. Louis and was organist at Villa Gesu.

In 1982, she began studying for certification as a music therapist. In addition to course work, she did practicums at various hospitals and nursing homes, and an internship at Child Center of Our Lady in St. Louis. She met all certification requirements in 1986. She ministered as a music therapist in various nursing homes and as a free-lance music therapist until her retirement in 2005. She was missioned to Anna House in 2008. Sister Ann Joseph died peacefully at Anna House on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 6:30 a.m. She donated her body to St. Louis University School of Medicine.

continued

Birth
September 19, 1927

Baptism
September 25, 1927

Profession
July 29, 1948

Death
January 19, 2016

Sister Ann Joseph
donated her body to
St. Louis University
School of Medicine

*Precious and blessed is
the death of the faithful
before God... for
they die in union with
their dear Jesus, in the
grace of God, in peace.*

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
Letter 11, September 10, 1831

In Loving Memory



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A memorial Mass was celebrated on January 29 with Rev. Paul Rothschild presiding. Her sister-in-law, Martha Conradt, four nieces and SSNDs were in attendance. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers, Paul Conradt and Brother Joseph Conradt, SM and her sister, Helen Conradt.

Sister Ann Joseph was deeply loved by her family, evident by the tributes given by her nieces, including messages from two nieces who were not able to attend. She took loving care of her mother and sister and would visit the family whenever it was possible.

For several decades, she prepared the liturgical readings for the daily Mass. Her private and communal prayer enabled her to grow in her trust of God's provident care. As a musician and music therapist, Sister Ann Joseph touched the lives of many individuals, ranging from childhood to senior citizens. She saw music as an important part of one's development as a person, which could be healing and calming to those in need. May Sister Ann Joseph now join the choirs of angels as she is welcomed into eternal life by the God who loves her!

By Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND

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