

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Mary Cleophas Schumacher

BORN: September 1928

ENTERED CONGREGATION: August 29, 1947

DIED: January 17, 2016

We gather today to celebrate the life of our dear Sister Mary Cleophas Schumacher, a dedicated Sister of the Precious Blood for 68 years.

Rita Schumacher was born in September 1928 to Wilfred Schumacher and Erma Schetter in Glandorf, Ohio and was baptized at St. John the Baptist Church. She was the oldest of four girls and three boys. She is survived by her sisters Angie, Eileen, and Barbara as well as two brothers Nick and Roger. Her brother Albert died in 1998. Rita grew up in a happy family where they prayed the rosary each day. She said herself, "My family was always close and deeply religious, making our home a real haven of happiness, joy and prayer."

The Sisters teaching in the school impressed her so much by their friendliness and dedication that she, too, had a desire to become a Sister. At the age of 19, on August 29, 1947, the feast of St. John the Baptist, the patron saint of her parish church, she entered the Sisters of the Precious Blood. At her profession she was given the name Sister Mary Cleophas.

Her first mission was in Linton, North Dakota where she taught second grade and cooked for the Sisters. Her greatest joy in those years was preparing the children for their First Holy Communion. Her next assignment was to Good

Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati where she received her diploma as a Licensed Practical Nurse as well as a certificate in pharmacology. After completing her training, she used her skills to care for the Sisters at Lourdes Hall. Everyone knew Cleophas by the loving care she gave her patients.

Her next ministry was at Kneipp Springs in Rome City, Indiana where she gave treatments which combined hydrotherapy and massages. In both techniques she excelled, so that often she was requested by patients. She really found those twelve years to be very rewarding because she felt she was really making a difference in their lives.

In 1979 Cleophas was then asked to work in the altar bread department until it closed in 1991. In 1992 she began her service as a receptionist at Salem Heights until her full retirement in 2004. One of Cleophas's trademarks was her great smiles and warm hugs.

Sister knew that no matter what she did whether it was helping the sick, serving as receptionist, cooking, housecleaning or giving lots of hugs, it was all a way of dedicating her life to the Lord and living out Precious Blood spirituality.

A highlight of Cleophas's life was the pilgrimage to Europe sponsored by the Blue Army which she experienced the year before her Golden Jubilee in 1996. She and her sister Angie were privileged to see many holy places in Rome, Assisi and Fatima. Her devotion to Mary grew

even more after her trip to Fatima on the 79th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady there. Another highlight of Cleophas's travels was seeing the passion play at Eureka Springs, Arkansas with her sister Eileen.

While Cleophas was living at Salem Heights she loved to crochet and was proud of the afghans she made for each of her brothers and sisters, and all her in-laws. She loved to play the tone chimes and did so even after she moved to Emma Hall. She also loved to read, listen to music and play cards.

Cleophas wrote on her 60th anniversary the following: "Thinking about the past 60 years of my religious life, my heart overflows with gratitude for the blessings and graces God has showered upon me. How happy and grateful I am to be a Sister of the Precious Blood."

Due to declining health, Cleophas moved to Emma Hall in 2011. Prayer was at the heart of her religious life. Often you would find her before the Blessed Sacrament in the small chapel in Emma Hall. She was very conscious of praying for the needs of the world, our Precious Blood community and her family.

Sister Cleophas, we will miss your presence. We have been inspired by your positive attitude and loving spirit. We thank you for touching so many lives with your compassionate care.

— Sister Cecilia Taphorn, CPPS