

IN MEMORIAM



Sr. Luella Huelskamp

(Sister M. Victor)

BORN: October 1928

ENTERED CONGREGATION: July 13, 1944

DIED: February 19, 2016

Today we gather to celebrate a life well lived. That of our dear Sister Luella Huelskamp, a dedicated Sister of the Precious Blood for the past 71 years.

Luella Matilda Huelskamp entered this life in October 1928 in Fort Recovery, Ohio. She was the fifth of eight children born to Aloysius and Rose (Hartlett) Huelskamp. The love and care with which her parents raised their children surely contributed to the love and kindness with which Luella lived her life. It is clear that Luella lived with a grateful heart. She wrote; "God has been good to me from the warm, sunny Saturday morning when I was born until these later years in life."

Luella's first pull toward religious life came on her First Communion Day when Sister Antoinella placed her candle on her desk. Luella remembered thinking, "I want to be just like her!" This thought became reality when on July 13, 1944, at the tender age of 15, Luella entered the postulancy of the Sister of the Precious Blood. Six years later on August 15, 1950 she (Sister Mary Victor) professed her final vows.

Growing up on the farm in "God's Country," Luella developed a love and fascination for nature — "the stars, the clouds, thunder and lightning," — that undoubtedly contributed to her love for education and most importantly made her aware of the grandeur of her God. Upon her arrival in Linton, North

Dakota, she lamented that "I could not go outside and lie on the grass as I had done at home and gaze into the starry sky and feel the immensity of God's presence because I had been told as a postulant that it was sensual to lie on the ground." Luella, putting a positive spin on life, was content to gaze at the stars through the window.

Luella received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Dayton and a Master of Science in Education from Indiana University. For 33 years Luella put her heart and soul into the education of young minds, and guided them in their discovery of the God who lived within them and loved them deeply. Her years in elementary education took her to Fort Wayne, Indiana, Dayton, Ohio, Columbus Grove, Ohio, back to Dayton, Linton, North Dakota, Glandorf, Ohio, Rensselaer, Indiana, and finally Ottoville, Ohio.

In 1980, the congregational leadership asked Luella to be the spiritual coordinator for the Sisters in Emma Hall. Luella spoke of her five years in Emma Hall as "the highlight of all my ministries." It was there that she learned of the deep prayer life of our Sisters and was witness to some beautiful deaths. She once reflected that, "I knew the moment the Sister had indeed met her Spouse."

From Emma Hall Luella was called to various ministries that took her to Marian Hall in Flint, Michigan and San Luis Rey in California. She arrived back in Dayton just in time for the "Blasting

of rock, blocking off of halls, and the many false fire drills" that ensued as Salem Heights went through its initial transformation. Before retiring, Luella volunteered as night assistant to the Sisters, housekeeper, shuffler of unused furniture, receptionist, coordinator of transportation and basically jack of all trades.

Luella was a roll up the sleeves, get the job done person. She has been described as one who "gives her all in whatever she does." In her down time, Luella enjoyed reading, crocheting, embroidery, playing cards, sightseeing or just walking outside and enjoying nature. She loved popcorn! She had her own personal popcorn pipeline. In her room at Emma Hall, she kept a container for popcorn, that when empty would be replaced with a full one by her popcorn supplier.

Reading back through Luella's yearly Mission Reflection forms, it is evident that she had simple, yet deeply profound goals; be faithful to daily prayer and be joyful and kind, even to those who are irritating! Early Friday morning while Luella slept peacefully, the God who she recognized, even as a child lying in the grass contemplating the stars, came to her and called her into the "immensity" of his eternal embrace. I am confident, that she directed her ever present, peaceful, gentle smile toward her spouse and found herself at home, at last!

— Sister Patty Kremer, C.P.P.S.