



**In death,  
we say our ultimate yes  
to our Creator.  
Trusting in God's power  
to bring us to fulfillment of life,  
we see death as an act of worship:  
in dying, we proclaim God, God;  
and ourselves, creatures.**

**Although in grief,  
the community gratefully affirms this,  
our final earthly proclamation  
of the good news...  
In hope and peace,  
we enter into the joy of the Lord!**

*You Are Sent #47*



*Sister Mary Irene Cline*

***Born*  
August 7, 1934**

***Professed*  
August 2, 1954**

***Ministry*  
elementary educator/administrator;  
founder-director of  
Notre Dame Tutorial Center  
Missouri**

***Died*  
February 21, 2008**



**School Sisters of Notre Dame  
of St. Louis**

**M**ary Ann was born to Irene (Doyle) and Jesse Cline on August 7, 1934, in Edwardsville, IL. She was baptized four days later at St. Mary Church, Edwardsville. Her family later moved to Alton, IL, and she attended St. Mary Grade School taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. When she was in the fifth grade, her older halfbrother, William Hish, died while serving in the U.S. Navy. This event brought much grief to the family.

After graduation from grade school, Mary Ann expressed the desire to become a religious but her parents were reluctant to hear of it, since she was so young and the only child at home. She enrolled at Marquette High School taught by the Ursuline Sisters. During her senior year, she struggled as to which congregation she was being called to enter. A weekend visit to Ripa settled the question. This time, her parents consented, and she entered the candidature on August 28, 1952. She was received into the novitiate on August 1, 1953, and given her mother's name, Mary Irene. Profession of first vows was August 2, 1954, and final vows August 2, 1960.

For 31 years, S. Mary Irene ministered in elementary education in Missouri. She taught at St. Aloysius, Spanish Lake; St. Joseph, Kimmswick; St. Charles Borromeo, St. Charles; and St. Lucy and Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Louis. She also ministered as principal at St. Joseph in Kimmswick, and St. Lucy and St. Dominic Savio in St. Louis.

In 1986, she became the founder and director of the Notre Dame Tutorial Center at the motherhouse. During her 20-year tenure as director, the Tutorial Center expanded

from an after-school tutoring program to include a summer program and an alternative learning center for elementary, secondary and special needs students.



In 2000, she was the recipient of the Sister Thea Bowman Award for *Teacher* in the St. Louis Archdiocesan Catholic Women's Awards ceremony.

S. Mary Irene was diagnosed with renal cell cancer in September 2005 and several months later suffered a stroke. Declining health resulted in her being missioned to Anna House in January

2008. In mid-February she was hospitalized at DePaul Health Center. She died peacefully in the hospital around 10:15 a.m. on February 21, 2008, as several sisters were praying at her bedside.

A wake/prayer service was held at Anna House and the motherhouse on February 24. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning with interment in the motherhouse cemetery. Rev. Brad Modde presided and Rev. Jerry Wickenhauser, MM, preached the homily. Many friends, colleagues, former students and their parents, and sisters came together to celebrate her life and ministry.

S. Mary Irene was a dedicated teacher and administrator. A transformative educator, she lived the conviction of Blessed Theresa that education can assist each person to reach the fullness of his or her potential. She was a loyal friend, a woman of prayer and compassionate to students who found it difficult to learn. Freed from suffering and reunited with her loved ones, may she now rejoice in the reward promised by God to those who teach.

