



**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



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



Sister Louise (Athanasia) Delagrange

Born
December 28, 1912

Professed
August 19, 1937

Ministry
**elementary educator,
administrator and
community service ~
Illinois, Missouri, Louisiana,
California and Nebraska**

Died
November 8, 2007

On the feast of the Holy Innocents, December 28, 1912, twin girls were born to Louise [Spindler] and Edward Delagrang in Fort Wayne, IN. Louise and her twin sister Mary were baptized the following day at St. Mary, Fort Wayne, IN, for the doctor feared they might not survive. Mrs. Delagrang consecrated the twins to Our Lady and promised that if they lived she would dress them in blue and white until they were 12 years old. They often tried to persuade their mother to be dressed in other colors, but she kept her promise. A younger sister and brother completed the family.

The twins were taught by School Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Mary's School in Fort Wayne. They completed their high school at St. Augustine Academy where the Sisters of Providence were their teachers. After graduation, Louise was employed as a secretary for Kiefers' Toy Shop in Fort Wayne for two years. While visiting her aunt, Sister Athanasia Spindler, at Ripa, Louise was confirmed in her call to religious life. With her aunt's help, Louise entered the candidature on January 19, 1934. She was privileged to have Sister Athanasia as directress for six months while Sister Paula Buchheim continued her studies at St. Louis University. Sister Athanasia died in April 1935 from cancer. Louise was given her name when she was received into the novitiate on August 18, 1936. Profession of first vows was August 19, 1937, and final vows August 19, 1943.

As a candidate, Louise taught third grade at Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Louis, MO. Following profession, she ministered in elementary education for 56 years as teacher and principal. She taught in several states: In Missouri ~ Immaculate Conception, West Alton; St. Gertrude, Krakow; St. Clare, St. Clair; and Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Louis. In Louisiana ~ St. Mary's Assumption, New Orleans and St. Anthony, Baton Rouge. In Illinois ~



St. Boniface, Quincy; St. Agatha, New Athens; and St. Michael, Radom. In Nebraska ~ Sacred Heart, Hebron. In California ~ Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Indio; St. Joseph, Holtville; St. Hilary, Pico Rivera; St. Aloysius, Tulare; and St. Martin, LaMesa. She was also principal at West Alton and Krakow, MO; Quincy, IL; Hebron, NE and La Mesa, CA.



As a golden jubilarian, Sister Louise introduced computers and scheduled video sessions for the students at St. Clare, St. Clair, MO.

When her health required her to leave teaching, she performed community service at the motherhouse for nine years before retiring to Veronica House in October 2002. Hip surgery in March 2007 necessitated a transfer to Anna House. She died peacefully and unexpectedly on November 8, 2007, at 8:35 p.m.

A wake/vigil was held at Anna House and the motherhouse on November 12, 2007. Rev. Joseph Wolf celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial the following morning. Burial was in the motherhouse cemetery. While none of Sister's relatives were able to attend, many friends, former students, co-workers and sisters came together to celebrate her life.

Sister Louise was a smiling, gentle, soft-spoken woman who managed a classroom without raising her voice. An innovative teacher, she continued to learn with her students. Her service in California was the fulfillment of her desire to minister to Mexican children. In her retirement years, she made hand-painted greeting cards and enjoyed water-coloring various scenes. May she join her twin and the other members of her family as she enters into eternal life and receives the reward God promised to those who teach others!