



**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 Jo Donna Grimes*

*Born*  
**December 21, 1932**

*Professed*  
**July 31, 1953**

*Ministry*  
**elementary educator/administrator ~  
Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska**

*Died*  
**December 29, 2007**



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

*“Let us never forget the love of Jesus for children, whom he took upon his lap, caressed, and blessed! Of them, he said, ‘Whoever receives one of these little ones in my name receives me’.”* (Blessed Theresa, # 714) Sister Jo Donna’s life as a School Sister of Notre Dame was a living example of the love of Jesus for children.

On December 21, 1932, the oldest child of Wilma Marie (Scott) and Monroe Grimes was born at the home of her grandparents in Cape Girardeau, MO. She was baptized on Christmas day at St. Mary’s Church and named Virginia Jo Donna. Two years later, her brother Monroe was born.

Jo Donna attended St. Mary’s Grade and High School in Cape Girardeau where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. A visit to the motherhouse in her junior year of high school confirmed her desire to become a sister. She entered the candidature on August 31, 1950. During her second year of candidature, she was sent to St. Joseph’s, Farmington, MO, but after one week was transferred to Sacred Heart, Effingham, IL, to teach second and third grades. On July 29, 1952, she was received as a novice and given her mother’s name, Wilma Marie. She professed first vows on July 31, 1953, and final vows on July 31, 1959.



Sister Jo Donna spent over 50 years in elementary education, teaching all grades and ministering as principal for 35 years. She taught at St. Liborius, St. Louis, MO; St. Mary, Alton, IL; Sacred Heart, Hebron, NE; St. Joseph, Manchester, MO; and All Souls, Overland, MO. She was principal at Sacred Heart, Hebron, NE; and Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Martin of Tours, St. Louis, MO. In 1985, she opened Queen of All Saints School in Oakville, MO. For 18 years, she served as principal overseeing the construction of the school and

a new addition, developing curriculum, introducing band, after-school choir, book discussion club, visiting parents, etc. In 2002, she retired as the first and only principal at Queen of All Saints. Following a year’s sabbatical, she assisted as a teacher’s aide in the Notre Dame Preschool at the motherhouse.



During the past years, several broken bones resulted in her stay at the motherhouse infirmary. On Christmas night 2007, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her baptism, she suffered a stroke. She died peacefully, with family members and sisters praying at her side, at St. Anthony’s

Medical Center, St. Louis, MO, on December 29, 2007 around 4:40 p.m.

A wake was held at the motherhouse on January 2, 2008. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the following morning. Msgr. Robert Jovanovic was celebrant; Rev. Edmond Fitzgibbon gave the homily. Four other priests were concelebrants. She is survived by a brother, Monty Grimes of Cape Girardeau, MO. Relatives, numerous colleagues, friends, former students and their parents, and sisters attended these services. Burial was in the motherhouse cemetery.

Sister Jo Donna was a transformative educator. Like Blessed Theresa and Mother Caroline, she provided a caring and loving environment where teachers and students could reach the fullness of their potential. A collaborative person, she engaged parents, teachers, school board and parish in the endeavor that has flowered during her tenure at Queen of All Saints. During these past years of retirement, her love for children and desire to continue to assist them was evident in her ministry at the preschool. She enjoyed traveling, cooking and reading. May Sister Jo Donna be received by Jesus, the friend of children, and rejoice in the fullness of eternal life!