



**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 M. John Regis King

Born
April 25, 1927

Professed
July 29, 1948

Ministry
**elementary educator; librarian; tutor;
and community service ~
Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri**

Died
August 29, 2007

On April 25, 1927, the first daughter and second child was born to Octavia [Meyer] and William Thoenes in St. Louis, MO. She was named Octavia Josephine after her mother. Octavia was baptized at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church on March 7, 1929. When she was six years old, her father died suddenly. Later, her mother married John King. He desired that Octavia's family name be changed to King. He was a wonderful father and friend to Octavia and her two brothers and sister. After graduation from St. Aloysius Gonzaga Grade School, she attended Notre Dame High School.

Octavia had thought of becoming a religious since her grade school years. During her senior year, she told her parents of her desire. She met with strong opposition from her mother who refused to help in any way. Mr. King finally persuaded her mother to let Octavia enter, suggesting that she needed to find out if convent life was her calling.

Octavia received her candidate's bonnet on August 29, 1945. The next year she was missioned to St. Mary's, New Orleans, LA, to teach second grade. On July 28, 1947, she was received into the novitiate and given the name M. John Regis. She had suggested this name to honor her stepfather, John, and Regis is the Latin form of the family name, King. She pronounced her first vows on July 29, 1948, and her final vows on July 29, 1954.



Following profession, S. John Regis was a primary educator for 26 years, often preparing children for the sacraments of First Communion and Penance. She served at Madonna Manor, Marrero, LA; St. Liborius, St. Bernadette, St. Gabriel, and St. Engelbert, St. Louis, MO; St. Francis Borgia, Washington, MO; All Souls, Overland, MO; St. Peter, St. Charles, MO; Blessed Sacrament, Hannibal, MO; St. Lucy, Jennings, MO; and St. Joseph, Cairo, IL. When

her health required that she discontinue full-time teaching, she was missioned to Villa Gesu to assist in community service. After two years, she was transferred to Notre Dame High School to catalogue the materials in the various resource centers. When the high school enrollment decreased 11 years later, this position was discontinued. She applied at Notre Dame Tutorial Center and for 17 years tutored elementary children.

Suffering from complications of diabetes, she was admitted to St. Anthony Medical Center in May 2004 and was missioned to Anna House in July 2004. By November 2004, she was placed on dialysis. For almost three years, she underwent dialysis three times a week. Sister John Regis was gracious during her treatments and grateful for the care she received. She died peacefully at Anna House on August 29, 2007, at 6:58 a.m. as sisters prayed with her.



The wake/prayer service was held at Anna House and the motherhouse on August 31, 2007. Rev. Joe Welschmeyer celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial the following morning. Interment was in the motherhouse cemetery. She is survived by a brother, John King of Millstadt, IL, and a sister, Lilliece Albes of St. Louis, MO. Many relatives, friends, former students and SSNDs attended the funeral services.

Sister John Regis tried to model her life on St. Paul's words, "Faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love." [1Cor. 13] She enjoyed teaching and taught the children to be God's joy balls: J=Jesus; O=others; Y=yourself. She concluded her autobiography with an expression of gratitude to the Blessed Trinity for her vocation to religious life and for the many ways God has been with her during her lifetime. Freed from her sufferings, may she now enjoy fullness of life with the God she loved and followed.