



PRECIOUS
& BLESSED
is the death of the
faithful
before
GOD.



School Sisters of Notre Dame
of St. Louis

320 East Ripa Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63125

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Sister Mary Tereseen Meyer, SSND

Born

September 28, 1913

Professed

August 21, 1936

Ministry

*Elementary educator/administrator; aspiranture
directress; driver and community service ~
California, Illinois, Missouri, Texas*

Died

December 1, 2008

Sister Mary Tereseen Meyer, SSND



Estelle Marie was born to Theresa [Robbe] and Edmund Meyer on September 28, 1913, in St. Louis, Mo. She was baptized on October 12 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Her father died when she was very young. As a single parent, her mother sought an education and employment to care for her only child. Estelle lived with various relatives during her youth. By the time she had reached her 18th birthday, she had lived in 17 different places and attended eight different schools.



Inspired by several SSNDs she had as teachers at St. Liborius Grade School and Rosati-Kain High School, she applied to enter the candidature in August 1932. However, an appendectomy in August resulted in peritonitis. On the brink of death, she was nursed back to health by the Franciscan Sisters at St. Anthony's Hospital. She was able to enter the candidature on November 25, 1932. During her third year of candidature, she was missioned to St. Teresa in Belleville, Ill., to teach first and second grade until Christmas and 7th and 8th grade until June. She was received into the novitiate on August 20, 1935, and given the name Mary Tereseen. Profession of first vows was on August 21, 1936, and final vows on August 21, 1942.

For 30 years, Sister Tereseen ministered in elementary education at: St. Anthony, Effingham, Ill.; St. John Nepomuk, St. Bernadette, St. Gabriel, St. William and St. Andrew in St. Louis, Mo.; Holy Family, San Diego, Calif.; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Indio, Calif. She was also principal at St. Berna-

dette, St. Gabriel and St. William in St. Louis and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Houston, Texas. She was directress of aspirants for six years, dean of students at Notre Dame College for one year, and then driver at the motherhouse for 19 years. In 1994, she retired to Villa Gesu. Shortly before the closing of the Villa, she went to live at San Luis Apartments near the St. Louis Cathedral. Here, she continued to witness to the other apartment dwellers and minister to them.

As her health failed, she was missioned to Veronica House in March 2002 and to Anna House in November 2007. She suffered a stroke on November 21, 2008, and was placed on hospice. At 9:25 p.m. on December 1, 2008, she peacefully went home to God at Anna House.

A wake/vigil was held at Anna House and the motherhouse on December 5, 2008. The Mass of Christian Burial was the following morning with Rev. Dave Kraus, OMI, and Rev. Larry Herzog as presidents. Relatives, friends, former students and SSNDs attended the funeral services. Burial was in the motherhouse cemetery.

Sister Tereseen was a gifted teacher and administrator who greatly loved the congregation. Her first degree in art enabled her to appreciate the beauty of all things which she often expressed through her poetry. From early childhood, change was part of her life and she readily adjusted to the various circumstances during her lifetime. A wise and prayerful woman, she entrusted the chaos of the world to the Trinity. She embraced persons of all faiths in their search for God. Her smile was contagious and her openness and desire to continue learning was an inspiration to all. She concluded her autobiography: "My parting words to all School Sisters of Notre Dame, my relatives and my friends are: 'All I ask of you is forever to remember me as loving you.'" May she rejoice as she beholds her God, the Creator of all the beauty around and within her!

Precious and blessed is the death of the faithful before God.