



**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 Frances Padberg

***Born*
May 6, 1930**

***Professed*
August 2, 1951**

***Ministry*
educator, provincial councilor,
pastoral minister, social justice advocate ~
Illinois, Missouri**

***Died*
May 3, 2008**



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

Emily Ann, the fourth of six children of Emily [Albrecht] and John Padberg, was born at St. Anthony's Hospital, St. Louis, Mo., on May 6, 1930, and baptized at St. Anthony of Padua Church on May 18, 1930. She grew up in a loving and deeply religious environment. An older brother, John, entered the Society of Jesus and her older sister, Mary Alice [Marie Xavier], entered SSND. When Emily was 12 years old, her father died and her faith-filled mother reared the three boys and three girls.

Emily attended Our Lady of Sorrows Grade School and Rosati-Kain High School. She entered the candidature at Ripa on September 1, 1948. Received into the novitiate on August 1, 1950, she was given the name Mary Frances. She professed first vows on August 2, 1951, and final vows on August 2, 1957.

Sister Mary Frances' teaching career included elementary grades at St. Michael, Shrewsbury and All Souls, Overland, Mo.; and teaching at Notre Dame High School and Rosati-Kain High School in St. Louis, Duchesne High School in St. Charles, Mo., and the newly opened Althoff High School in Belleville, Ill. She was principal at St. Francis de Sales and St. Alphonsus [Rock] High Schools in St. Louis. Following these years in formal education, she was pastoral minister at St. Alphonsus [Rock]; coordinator of the Social Concerns Committee for the St. Louis Province; program director for the Interfaith Committee of Latin America in St. Louis; provincial councilor for the St. Louis Province; a staff member at Theresa Living Center, a facility for homeless women, in St. Paul, Minn.; and a staff member at Notre Dame High School, St. Louis.



Following surgery for a hernia, she was missioned to Veronica House in February 2008. An independent person, she graciously accepted the increased need for care, due to a degenerative



neurological condition that made walking and standing difficult. She was transferred to Anna House on April 28, 2008. Three days later, she suffered a stroke and underwent surgery. She was called home to her God in the presence of family, sisters and friends on May 3, 2008, at 8:15 p.m. at DePaul Health Care Center, Bridgeton, Mo. Her death occurred three days before her 78th birthday.

A wake/vigil was held at Anna House and the motherhouse on May 7, 2008. Her brother, Rev. John Padberg, SJ, was celebrant for the Mass of Christian Burial the following morning in the motherhouse chapel. Due to the rain, the graveside prayers were said at the Pieta Shrine. Services were attended by relatives, former students, colleagues, friends, SSNDs and clergy. She is survived by her brother and two sisters, Sister Marie Xavier, SSND, and Carol Padberg of St. Louis.

Sister Mary Frances was known for her delightful sense of humor, her ability to teach boys, her great love for history, her gift to create parodies to familiar melodies, her optimism and pursuit of truth, and her love of creation. She was a woman of conviction, willing to take a stand in social justice issues: human rights, women's rights, the death penalty, the arms race, etc. She worked for the elimination of unjust structures that exploit and impoverish peoples. She said, "My work is close to my life and my heart, my desire to help women and children." May she now rejoice in the reward promised by God to those who shelter the homeless, visit the prisoner, and speak out for the marginalized and oppressed!