



**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 Carol Reeb

Born
October 13, 1949

Professed
January 1, 1970

Ministry
**science educator and provincial councilor ~
California, Illinois, Missouri**

Died
November 23, 2007



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

“As you live, so you die; what you have become in your life, only that can you be at the end; what you sow, only that can you reap.” [Mother Theresa, #2] *“The [Lord] sends sufferings and the cross to those he loves, so that he may reward them more abundantly in the next world.”* [Mother Theresa, #3634] This conviction of Blessed Theresa was very evident in Sister Carol Reeb’s life.

The oldest of five children, she was born to Helen [Lanter] and Raymond Reeb on October 13, 1949, in Belleville, IL. She was baptized on October 23 at St. Peter Cathedral, Belleville, and named Carol Jean. Later, a brother and three sisters would be born to complete the Reeb family.

Carol attended St. Peter Cathedral grade school and the Academy of Notre Dame where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Already in first grade she had the sense that God was inviting her to become a woman religious. Prayer and the example of her teachers gave her the grace to answer this call. She entered the candidature on August 24, 1967 and began college courses. She was received into the novitiate on July 27, 1968 and given the name Carolyn Maureen. Profession of first vows was January 1, 1970 and final vows October 10, 1976 at St. Boniface, Quincy, IL.



Completing her bachelor’s of science in chemistry, Sister Carol was sent to teach 7 and 8th graders at St. Peter, St. Charles, MO, for two years. During the next 26 years, she taught science to secondary students at Quincy Notre Dame, Quincy, IL, and St. Anthony High School, Effingham, IL. The last 13 years of teaching were at Our Lady of Loretto-Bishop Conaty High School in Los Angeles, CA. This transfer required an adjustment to a multicultural student body and a culture different from the Midwest.

In 1999, she was called to community leadership as provincial councilor. In addition to her duties as a councilor, she was an

active member of the LCWR Region X, Metropolitan Congregations United and the Intercommunity Ecological Council.



She served on the board for Marian Middle School, St. Louis, and Tierra del Sol, Sunland, CA. Her energy and enthusiasm were evident in these leadership roles.

In 2000, surgery for an external melanoma appeared to be successful. However, by April 2007, the cancer returned internally resulting in tumors on the brain and several vital organs. By November 2007, the cancer no longer responded to treatment. Sister Carol continued to live life as much as her physical strength allowed. On November 20,

a drastic change in her condition occurred. Anointed and surrounded by the loving prayers of her sisters and the care of the infirmary staff, she died peacefully in the motherhouse infirmary on November 23, 2007, at 8 a.m. as the motherhouse community assembled to celebrate Eucharist.

Sister Carol’s dedication to science inspired her to donate her body to St. Louis University School of Medicine. A prayer service was held at the motherhouse on November 29 and the memorial Mass celebrated the following morning. She is survived by her father, Raymond of Wichita, KS; three sisters, Sue Willhite of Leon, KS; Rosie Brungardt of Wichita, KS; Barbara Bergman of Overland Park, KS; and a brother, Richard of Madison, WI. Relatives, colleagues, classmates, friends and sisters attended these services to celebrate her life.

Family, nature and science were her passions. She cherished her family and the time she spent with them. A lover of God’s creation, she enjoyed camping and hiking. She was an excellent teacher and never stopped learning. She delighted in celebrating, especially her favorite holiday – Halloween. Prayer and community were her support in life. Sister Carol was an inspiration to all of us in her patient perseverance as *she gave her all to live* and yet was willing to *give her all to God* when the call came. May she rejoice in the glory and fullness of eternal life!

My soul rejoices

Because God has done wonders!

Today is a celebration of Carol's life among us. We are here because Carol touched out lives in some special way. Carol saw the wonders of God in the creation she loved so dearly and in the family, friends, and SSND community she cherished daily. The readings and songs for today were selected by Carol. These are her gift and message to us this morning. Like Mary, in her concern for her cousin Elizabeth, Carol had great concern for all of us—her family, community, and friends, the world. Carol shared many Visitation moments with us—a family gathering, a lunch, working together, a movie, or just hanging out as she would say. Like Mary, Carol rejoiced in life each day and saw God's wonders everywhere. Her beautiful smile radiated her delight.

Today's Gospel is Mary's Magnificat. It is Mary's reflective yet joyous Yes to God. Carol prayed her own Magnificat many times in the reflective and caring way she went about all the ordinary and extra ordinary moments in her life. Carol was always prepared. She did her utmost best to make life and work easier for others. She was known to pick out just the right gift, to come to meetings with pencil sharpened, and to help pitch the tent or build the fire when camping. Each of us holds treasured memories and experiences with Carol. She always had her legendary calendar and briefcase. She would have post it notes to herself posted everywhere—stuck on her mirror, on her computer, in her car, everywhere. These notes were gems that held everything from a spiritual practice for the day to directions and reminders. If we were going somewhere with Carol, she faithfully came with options

and coupons. When she would do something, we could count on it being done, with intensity, care, some impatience (in her works, OK people lets get going) and a generous measure of fun. Halloween was a feast day for Carol and her annual costume preparations began in July—she was the Halloween Queen. Carol knew how to have a good time. Carol did a lot of living in her life. Hiking, camping, running, walking, exploring are metaphors for her irrepressible energy for life!

Carol was very drawn to the Marian Reflection Room in Caroline Center and to Sister Maura’s poem, *From a Woman’s Life*, which describes not only Mary’s life but our life. Carol was drawn to the line that says about Mary, “She leaned into the curve of living.”

Carol not only leaned into living she plunged into life. Here are a few examples of Carol plunging

- Her annual family Christmas activity, a gift to her family
- Her passion for teaching science
- Her work for the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (Region X)
- Her board work for Marian Middle School and Tierra Del Sol
- Her book club and young sisters group
- Her commitment to the environment (Intercommunity Ecology Council)
- Her SSND community life
- Her Metropolitan Congregations United participation and Lemay Project
- Her provincial council ministry for the School Sisters of Notre Dame

Toward the end of her council ministry, Carol talked about the inner transformation taking place within her. She grew in deeper love of her

vocation and the sisters. We saw this transformation continue to deepen and grow during these last months.

The readings and songs today are about peace, gratitude, love, saying yes to God and going home. Let us rejoice and be thankful for the gift of Carol to us each in our own way and each in the cherished memories we have of her. Her presence is with us always. Last Friday Carol said her final Yes to God and she returned Home in peace. “We have only begun to imagine the fullness of life. How could we tire of hope? So much is in the bud.” (Denise Levertov)

Homily

Joanne Hanrahan, SSND

November 30, 2007

Feast of St. Andrew