

Sister Ann Hipp, C.PP.S.

Born: December 23, 1919

Professed: August 10, 1940

Entered into Life: March 9, 2016

Verse on her memorial card:

**“If you live in me, and my words stay part of you,
you may ask what you will - It will be done for you.”
(John 15:7)**



March 10, 2016

Dear Sisters,

On March 9, 2016, at 4:29 p.m., Sr. Ann Hipp (Vincentia) left this life as Sisters Clara Therese Ziegler and Rose Rita Orf sat with her. She took a last quiet breath and sailed into the arms of God. Sr. Ann was a wonderful storyteller and loved to share about her childhood, her teaching experiences in the U.S. and Finland, and sewing in the Ecclesiastical Art Department.

What better person to tell her life story than Sr. Ann herself, so the following excerpts are from her autobiography: *“On a cold December 23rd, 1919, I was born to Anna Peitz Hipp and Charles John Hipp in St. Paul, Minnesota, the seventh child of the family of four boys and three girls, all of whom were born at home. When I was eleven years old my family moved to Omaha, Nebraska, and became parishioners of St. Joseph Parish. This was our first acquaintance with the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood.*

After graduation from eighth grade, four of our class came to the Aspirancy in O’Fallon. In 1937, two of us went to the Novitiate and in 1940 I made First Profession. I was sent to teach the first four grades in Caruthersville, Missouri. My first three years of teaching I was at a different school each year. In 1945, I began my years of further study at Quincy College, graduating in 1955 as a history major. I continued to teach in various grade schools, mostly in farm areas except for the one year at St. John the Baptist High School when I was working on my master’s degree from St. Louis University. I then taught at St. Peter’s School in Mendota, Minnesota. In 1966, I came to St. Mary’s Academy in O’Fallon where I stayed for twenty years teaching history.”

Sr. Ann’s students at St. Mary’s Academy loved her. She was “House Mother” for the boarders, with some calling her “Mom.” Her students remember Sr. Ann as someone who always smiled and loved to have fun. The students knew she was from Minnesota and could get her off the topic of history by asking Sr. Ann about her family or her skating adventures. The students developed a great love of history, American and World, and several later chose history as a major in college.

Sr. Ann: “In 1986 I traveled to Helsinki, Finland, and taught history in The English School that our community had started. My experience of living and working at The English School in Finland was

very enriching. I learned to appreciate the beauty of God's creation, the vastness, the beauty of the woods, and the great variety of his creation so different in this Northland. There were wild berries, a great variety of mushrooms in abundance and the beauty of the sea... Nature took on a new light and appreciation for me. I'm grateful to have been there, to have become friends with so many people. It was a new and enriching experience and a blessing. We traveled around Europe which enriched my life and appreciation of history and the peoples of the world."

In 1990, Sr. Ann returned to O'Fallon, where she traded in her chalk for a sewing needle. For the past 25 years, she has worked in the community's Ecclesiastical Art Department, which designs and produces altar cloths and vestments. In 2015, Sr. Ann was interviewed by the National Religious Retirement Office and asked what she thought was the key to a long life: *"Enjoy life. Have a few laughs, and always know the Lord is there for you."*

Sr. Ann: *"My work in the department was challenging and enjoyable. It was very different from teaching but we still have the opportunity to have contact with individuals and groups of people who visit the vestment making. Thus, we are still teaching and spreading the Good News. Today my life is centered on the liturgy and the celebration of the Eucharist. It is part of who we are as a community."*

Sr. Ann, we shall miss your joyful spirit, your engaging stories, and your interest in the events of the world. You chose these words of St. John for your memorial card: *"If you live in me, and my words stay part of you, you may ask what you will--- it will be done for you."*

Sr. Ann Hipp's body will return to St. Joseph Chapel at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, March 11, 2016, and her wake will be from 3:30 - 8:00 p.m., with a Prayer Service of Thanksgiving at 7:00 p.m. Her wake will continue on Saturday, March 12, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. with her Funeral Mass at 11:00 a.m., all in St. Joseph Chapel.

Sr. Ann, you loved scripture and meditated on God's word every day. The "words" of God are part of you and now you are rejoicing to see the "Word made flesh," to see God face to face and "see him as he really is." Pray for us who remember you, those of Villa Theresa Haven who cared for you, the sisters in community who call you friend, and for your sister, Helen, nieces, and nephews who love you.

Sincerely,



Sr. Fran Raia