

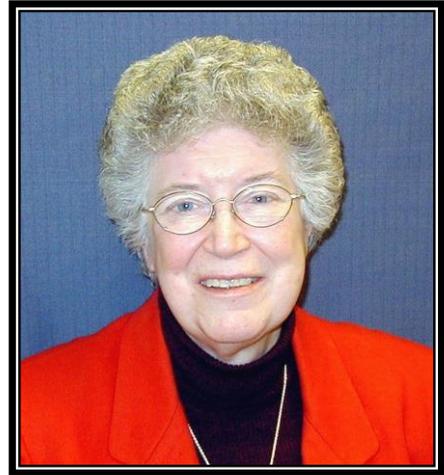
Sister Helen Margaret Schuette, C.P.P.S.

Born: July 15, 1931

Professed: August 10, 1952

Entered into Life: August 7, 2015

Verse on her memorial card: **“For those who love God, all things work together unto good.”**
Romans 8:28



August 8, 2015

Dear Sisters,

Just a few hours before Sr. Helen Margaret Schuette, CPPS, went home to God, she visited with a dear friend, Ken Grant, and Sr. Joyce Schramm, CPPS. Ken told her how much he appreciated her talents and gifts and the love she shared with him and others. Then Sr. Helen Margaret spoke to her sister, Mary Helen, on the phone and told her how much she loved her and “I don’t think I’ll make it this time.” These may have been the last words Sister heard and said because a few hours later at 11:00 pm, August 7, 2015, she died peacefully.

Born Shirley Ann Schuette, Sr. Helen Margaret was the older of two daughters of Robert and Helen Schuette. She attended St. Engelbert and St. Anthony elementary schools before moving to Little Rock, Arkansas.

In her autobiography, Sr. Helen Margaret shared two experiences that profoundly affected her life. Walking home from school in third grade, she was hit by a car and spent a year recuperating from the effects of the accident. During that time her father brought her library books to read and her love of books was born.

Another experience happened in Little Rock, Arkansas: *“I experienced Jim Crow laws in practice. A lovely middle-aged black woman, Ada Mae, cared for my sister and me...I would walk her home through the white section of town as a ‘safeguard’ for her...there was one Catholic church for whites and one for black people...we often went to the black church because we liked it better.”*

Sr. Helen Margaret thoroughly enjoyed her years as a St. Elizabeth Academy (SEA) student and graduated in 1949. Although she was offered a job at Boatmen’s Bank, she decided to become a postulant and entered the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. Sr. Helen Margaret received a bachelor’s of science in English from St. Louis University in 1965 and a master’s in English from the University of Missouri, Columbia in 1971.

Teaching came naturally to Sr. Helen Margaret. She taught in the following elementary schools in Missouri: St. Agatha and Most Precious Blood in St. Louis, Our Lady of Fatima in Florissant, and St. Mary in Glasgow. In Colorado, she taught in St. Louis School in Louisville, and St. Charles Academy in Stratton.

Sr. Helen Margaret taught at SEA for 38 years and then served as Archivist dedicating many years to educating young women. Besides teaching English at SEA, Sr. Helen Margaret was the moderator of The Thuringian newspaper, organized and established the SEA Archives and the Heritage Gallery.

During the 125th anniversary celebration of SEA, many students spoke about the excellent teaching they experienced with Sr. Helen Margaret. Gert Booker (Guittar) shared: “*Sister instilled in me a love of literature, grammar, and the English language...after graduation I became an English teacher and did practice teaching with Sr. Helen Margaret.*”

A few weeks ago some members of the SEA class of 1965 celebrated Sr. Helen Margaret’s birthday with her favorites: White Castle cheeseburger, cupcakes and Ted Drewes. They had a great time together.

These last few years, Sr. Helen Margaret was dealing with several health problems which limited her activities but never dimmed her intelligence, her wit and sense of humor. Her spirituality, reflected in the readings she chose for her funeral liturgy, reveals a practical woman, a person of great trust in God, and a Sister longing to experience the peace of Christ.

Sr. Helen Margaret Schuette’s body will return to St. Joseph Chapel at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2015, 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, August 22, from 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. with her Funeral Mass beginning at 11:00 a.m. in St. Joseph Chapel.

From the book of Ecclesiastes we read: “*There is a time to be born, a time to die, a time to weep...to laugh...to mourn...to dance.*” It seems Sr. Helen Margaret has lived and accepted those words over the years and says to each of us: “*For those who love God, all things work together unto good.*”

Pray for us, Sr. Helen Margaret, send your consolation to those who will miss you, and help us remember the words of the reading from Philippians you chose for the funeral liturgy: “*The Lord is near, dismiss all anxiety from your mind. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Fran".

Sr. Fran Raia