

Sister Louise Wagner, C.P.P.S.

Born: September 3, 1925

Professed: August 10, 1946

Entered into Life: January 9, 2014

Verse on her memorial card: **“Whatever you do – do it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.” Colossians 3:17**



January 14, 2014,

Dear Sisters,

At 10:30 p.m. on January 9, Sister Louise Wagner took one last breath and came to live the words of the Mass Prayer of the day: “...(she came) *to acknowledge the full splendor of her Redeemer, bathed ever more in His radiance and reached eternal life.*” A Hospice worker was with Sr. Louise and said that it was a peaceful passing for her.

Baptized Louise Catherine Wagner, September 6, 1925, at Assumption Parish, Mattese, Missouri, Sr. Louise was the third child of Frank and Clara Wagner. Her parents, brothers and sisters celebrating with her in heaven include: Walter, Phillip, Alfred, Helen Heitman and Mildred Hunn. It must be a happy reunion for Sr. Louise to see her aunt, Sr. Catherine Wagner, also a member of the C.P.P.S. Community. We extend our sympathy to the family of Sr. Louise especially her brother, Francis Wagner and sister-in-law Mitzi, her sister Mary Kayser and brother-in-law Ralph; nephews Rick Heitman and Richie Wagner, and her niece Dot Parks.

Sr. Catherine Wagner was a mentor to Sr. Louise and one of the main reasons she entered the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood in 1943. Sr. Louise made her religious profession in 1946. Her collegiate education was at St. Louis University. The first degree in 1959 was in geography and philosophy and a master’s in education and geography in 1966.

Teaching elementary children for forty-one years, Sr. Louise traveled to many schools in the St. Louis Archdiocese: St. Anthony of Padua in High Ridge; Immaculate Conception in Owensville; St. Agatha, St. John the Baptist and St. Stephen in St. Louis; Ascension in Chesterfield; St. Vincent in Dutzow; All Saints in St. Peters; Holy Rosary in Warrenton; St. George in Gardenville; and St. Alphonsus in Millwood. Sister taught at St. Peter’s in Quincy, Illinois; St. Richard in Omaha, Nebraska; and St. Joseph in Des Moines, Iowa. How about learning the geography of all those places!

Sr. Louise loved the little children she taught and kept a list of all their names so she could pray for them. She taught them how to play baseball during recess and was the organizer

of games and fun at family reunions. Sr. Louise made sure that everyone was involved and everyone won a prize.

In 1989, Sr. Louise returned to the Motherhouse for years of service to the sisters. She served in a variety of ways: on the food service staff, as a driver, a general volunteer, and sewed in the Ecclesiastical Art Department. Since 2002, Sr. Louise was retired and lived a ministry of prayer and presence in O'Fallon.

A highlight for Sr. Louise came during the celebration of her sixtieth jubilee in 2006. She really enjoyed all the family that attended the Mass and reception which was evident in her big smile and twinkling blue eyes as she walked down the aisle with her classmate, Sr. Mary Carol Scanlon. Sisters remember her dry sense of humor and how she loved to tell stories about the children in her classrooms. In Villa Theresa Haven where she resided, Sr. Louise would "light up" when children would visit.

According to Rick Heitman, a nephew of Sister Louise, she was a mentor to him and showed him by her example our congregational charism of reconciliation. Through her influence, Rick became a Partner in Mission, the associate program of our community, participating in the small faith communities and becoming the co-director for some years. He considers Sr. Louise a great blessing in his life.

Sr. Louise's body will return to St. Joseph's Chapel at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2014, and her wake will be from 3:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., with a Prayer of Thanksgiving at 7:00 p.m. Her Funeral Mass will be on Friday, January 17, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. in St. Joseph Chapel.

Among some papers belonging to Sr. Louise this message was written and seems a fitting close to this letter. *"God bless you, merry gentle folk, is all I have to say. See you at home in our heavenly mansion, together with the rest of the gang!"*

Sincerely,

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

Sr. Fran Raia