

## **Sister Madelene Reiners, C.PP.S.**

**Born: December 12, 1920**

**Professed: August 10, 1944**

**Entered into Life: February 2, 2016**

Verse on her memorial card: **“I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name.”** Isaiah 49:15



February 4, 2016

Dear Sisters,

At 7:48 p.m. on February 2, 2016, our Sr. Madelene Reiners, with Sr. Viola Marie Spire at her bedside, peacefully entered heaven. She had been sleeping and not responding much for several days. Sr. Madelene was ninety-five years old and a professed Sister of the Most Precious Blood for more than seventy years.

Born on a farm in Indianola, Nebraska, Sr. Madelene was the seventh in the family of ten. Quoting Sr. Madelene's autobiography: *“The ten were Grace, Stella, Franklin, Sr. Alice Catherine, CPPS, Mae, Nellie, Marie (Sr. Madelene), Luella, Glenn and Eugene. Glenn, Luella, and myself, spent hours playing under the trees in the summer...in the winter we played in the snow which fell quite often and a lot of it. We had great times.”*

In 1941, Sr. Madelene was visiting her sister, Sr. Alice Catherine Reiners, in O'Fallon and didn't expect to stay and become a sister. But when the *“pastor pushed and the novices pulled, I decided to stay...and I had a happy life.”*

Sr. Madelene had five big loves in her life: God, family, the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, her friends, and the St. Louis Cardinals. They mingled in her bedroom at Villa Theresa Haven. Rosary beads and a black and white photo of her mother and father with another of her nine brothers and sisters rested on the table near her bed. Cardinal memorabilia filled the book shelves with photos of the 2011 World Series Champions and a tiny piece of the ball and a few grains of red dirt from the field.

Sr. Madelene was a lifetime sports fan who followed all local sports and attended Cardinals' games whenever she could. *“I go for the sheer love of the game, to gather my friends around me and to support people I love who made a difference in my life.”*

In western Nebraska, she remembered that the Cardinals were the closest big league team. *“When the Cardinals' games were broadcast on the radio, we had to be very quiet so my father could hear.”*

Sr. Madelene was a person of great energy and enthusiasm. As an elementary teacher she spent seventeen years in various schools in St. Louis, Florissant, High Ridge, Ste. Genevieve and St. Paul, Missouri. She also taught in Wynott, Crete and Omaha, Nebraska. As a principal, Sr. Madelene ministered in Stratton, Colorado; Dutzow, Missouri; and two

schools in St. Louis: St. John the Baptist and Holy Family. When leaving as principal of Holy Family school, Sr. Madelene told the parents: *"I am grateful for the children you entrusted to my care. They are your gift from God...the children have always been very dear to me and I shall miss them very much."* The students, faculty and parents appreciated her enthusiasm, dedication, creativity, sense of humor, and love for the people.

After more than 40 years as a teacher and school principal, Sr. Madelene was asked by her superiors to take on the role of development director for the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood. She worked in that ministry to benefit her Sisters in community for some twenty-one years. Her successor, Leah Wand, said *"Sr. Madelene had a way about her that made people want to get involved and give. . . That's just the way she was, her age did not define her."*

In 2011, Sr. Madelene was recognized at the "Ageless—Remarkable Saint Louisans Gala," a yearly event when St. Andrew's Senior Services recognizes persons over the age of seventy who continue to make contributions to the community. Her family, friends, and Sisters celebrated the night with her.

Sr. Madelene was a great baker. Her cookies and candy were shared with many different groups of people. The Sisters in community, her family, the Cardinals manager and team, the members of the development advisory board, were some of those who delighted in her treats. She was famous for throwing parties, creating fun games, and celebrating birthdays.

*"God has given me many blessings,"* Sr. Madelene would often say. She was very grateful to her friends who visited her, took her out for a meal, sent cards and to the staff of Villa Theresa Haven who cared for her so lovingly.

In her last days with us, Sr. Madelene wondered why she wasn't in heaven yet because *"I'm ready, what is God waiting for?"* Coincidentally, on February 2, 1870, God called our Sisters in Germany to come to the United States and on this February 2, 2016, God called Sr. Madelene to heaven. Maybe that was what God and Sr. Madelene were waiting for.

Sr. Madelene's body will return to St. Joseph Chapel at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, February 5, 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 Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, February 6, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in St. Joseph Chapel.

We all have our special memories of Sr. Madelene and she has a message for us that is on her card and on the funeral liturgy that she prepared: *"I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have written your name."* (Isaiah 49) With the assurance that we will not be forgotten we say: "Sr. Madelene, enjoy seeing your parents, brothers and sisters, and get the ballgames organized!"

Sincerely,



Sr. Fran Raia