

Sister Mary Judith Orf, C.P.P.S.

Born: September 27, 1925

Professed: August 10, 1947

Entered into Life: August 20, 7

Verse on her memorial card:

“Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on us what God has prepared for those who love God.” (1 Cor 2:9-10)



April 21, 2017

Dear Sisters,

For most of her adult life, Sister Mary Judith Orf rose quietly in the early hours of the morning to prepare breakfast. Around 4:45 a.m., on April 20, 2017, she slipped peacefully away to join the heavenly banquet.

Born on September 7, 1925, to Alphonse and Elizabeth Orf, Sister Mary Judith (Adelaide) was the eighth of eleven children. She dearly loved her family, and over the years had to bid farewell to each member. She now celebrates this Easter season in heaven with them: her brothers Clarence, Jerome, Gregory, Joseph and William and her sisters, Isabel, Mary Hiatt, Alice Norton, Gladys Hash and Grace Miller. Our sympathy extends to her two sisters-in-law, Kate and Tillie, and to her many nieces and nephews including our own Sister Ellen Orf.

Sister Mary Judith entered the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood in 1944 and professed vows in 1947. She was to celebrate the 70th anniversary of her profession on June 4, 2017. Her three remaining classmates will carry her in their hearts in a special way on that day.

Sister Mary Judith was a cook, or more accurately, a gourmet chef. Growing up on a farm in Flint Hill, Missouri, Sister Mary Judith learned cooking from her earliest teacher, her mother. As might be expected, her early meals were practical. Gourmet meals developed with her further education that included degrees in dietary management from Forest Park Community College and Fontbonne College. Because of her mother's French heritage, Sister Mary Judith became interested in French cooking, and she spent one semester studying culinary art in France.

She shared her love of cooking with students. In a class she taught at Forest Park Community College, the students' final exam consisted of preparing and serving a five-course meal. While at Bishop DuBourg, Sister Mary Judith would assist Sister Mary Joan's French class in preparing a French meal.

Sisters who lived with Sister Judy in local community describe her as a “home-maker” in the deepest sense of that word. Everyone was welcomed into her kitchen and into her heart. Her meals, whether as simple as hot dogs or as exquisite as a seven-course French banquet, were prepared and served with love. A 1978 *Globe Democrat* article quoted her as saying, “In this work,

no matter what the age of those you are serving, you are dealing with the feelings of people. You want to do a good job. It is a witness to what Jesus did in serving people.”

And, serve she did! Sister Mary Judith ministered as a homemaker at St. James in Crete, NE; St. Mary's in Quincy, IL; St. Henry's in Charleston and Sacred Heart in Florissant, MO. She served as director of food services at our O'Fallon motherhouse, at Bishop DuBourg Convent and at St. Elizabeth Academy. After retiring from food service, she volunteered with CSJ Care Ministry and St. Elizabeth Adult Day Care Center. Since 2009, her ministry has been prayer and presence in St. Joseph Community in O'Fallon.

During her service with CSJ Care Ministry, Sister Judy assisted a woman who was upset that her family had arranged for a caregiver. Wondering how to win this reluctant client's trust, Sister Judy decided on this approach: one morning when the woman answered the door, Sister Judy said to her, "I need a hug," and the woman embraced her. Sister Judy said, "You know, that just did that woman so much good. We had an almost perfect day because I needed something that she could give me." How typical of Sister Judy!

Sister Mary Judith was an avid sports fan who faithfully followed the St. Louis Blues and Cardinals. She regularly baked cookies for the St. Louis Blues. An autographed, near-life-size poster of the Blues' star player, Brett Hull, adorned the door of the pantry at SEA. When Brett Hull's Restaurant and Grill opened in 1991, Sister Mary Judith was on hand alongside many celebrities. Among numerous photos of Hull, her picture also graced the wall.

In recent years, Sister Mary Judith's energy and memory waned, but her warm, loving, welcoming smile was constant until the end.

Sister Mary Judith's body will be returned to St. Joseph's Chapel at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 23, 2017, and her wake will be from 3:30 until 8 p.m. with a Prayer of Thanksgiving at 7 p.m. Her wake will continue on Monday, April 24, 2017, from 9:00-10:45 a.m. Her Funeral Mass will be on Monday, April 24, 2017, at 11 a.m. in St. Joseph Chapel.

Sister Mary Judith chose Proverbs' description of the good homemaker for her funeral liturgy. How aptly it depicts her: "She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household . . . She reaches out her hands to the poor and extends her arms to the needy. . . Give her the reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates."

Yes, Lord, give her the reward of her labors and welcome her to Your heavenly table.

Sincerely,

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

Sister Janice Bader