

Sister Mary Lou Talmon, C.PP.S.

Born: December 13, 1945

Professed: August 10, 1967

Entered into Life: January 21, 2016

Verse on her memorial card:

“Here I am Lord, I come to do your will...” Isaiah 6

January 23, 2016

Dear Sisters,



“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over many things... Come and join in your master’s happiness.” These words came to mind when I heard that Sr. Mary Lou Talmon passed from this life to the next on Thursday, January 21, at 5:45 p.m.

During her last few days, our Sisters were sitting by Sr. Mary Lou’s bedside, praying and offering her comforting words. One of our Partners in Mission, Lorraine Cully, was with her when she died and witnessed Sr. Mary Lou peacefully and quietly pass to new life. Her years of struggling with cancer are over and she now rejoices in freedom, mobility, joy and delight in the presence of the One who has always loved her.

Mary Lucille was the first of five children born to Irvin and Mary Therese Talmon in Omaha, Nebraska. Her sister Carol Talmon Chapuran says of Sr. Mary Lou: *“Mary Lou wanted to be a Precious Blood Sister since she was very young. She told me she planned to go to the convent as we were walking home from the bus stop when she was only in 5th or 6th grade. Mom and Dad wanted her to go to high school in Omaha and have at least one date before leaving for the convent. She went on one date, only one, and left for O’Fallon after high school graduation.”*

Sr. Mary Lou entered the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood in O’Fallon, Missouri, in 1964 and made final vows August 5, 1972. She received a bachelor of arts in social science from Fontbonne College. She taught for 24 years in elementary schools in Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri.

“When the family took her to O’Fallon for the first time, it was a hot, sticky day in August 1964. We all went. Before we left the house, I remember going into the kitchen and Mary Lou was washing dishes and cleaning up the kitchen. She was always wanting to help.” (Sue Talmon Franco, one of her sisters,) That spirit of helpfulness continued throughout Sr. Mary Lou’s life. Her giving spirit permeated all the ministries Sr. Mary Lou was engaged in: as teacher, administrative assistant for the Missionaries of LaSalette, data manager for the Salvation Army, computer instructor for Catholic Family Services and many years as transportation director for the congregation. Her skills were especially appreciated by the employees of the transportation department in O’Fallon.

Sr. Mary Lou's sister Carol remembers: "*She loved being around my grandchildren and loved rocking the babies. She would come for a visit and bring tons of home-made cookies and small treats for everyone.*" Organizing parties, bringing treats for holidays, making lamb cakes for Easter are a few things that Sr. Mary Lou enjoyed. Her brother Bob says: "*Mary Lou was one of the most giving people I knew. She was incredibly generous to family and making others happy was always a priority. She loved giving gifts to all the children and watching their faces light up from her generosity. All these memories and Mary Lou's spirit will be cherished forever.*"

On December 13, 2015, we had a triple celebration for Sr. Mary Lou. We thanked her for the fifteen years of scheduling the coming and going of car trips, maintaining our fleet of cars, responding to urgent phone calls from Sisters and doctors with kindness and patience. This was also her 70th birthday and the 48th anniversary as a professed Sister of the Most Precious Blood. Her brother, Bob, sisters, Carol and Sue and other family members celebrated with Sr. Mary Lou and enjoyed the honors she received. One of the Sisters composed a song to thank Sr. Mary Lou. "*You've served us now for more than 15 years; from the bottom of our hearts, a big Thank You!*"

Sr. Mary Lou will be greatly missed by her family, her Sisters in community, especially her classmates: Sisters Marie Fennewald, Rosemary Oellermann, and Carolyn Pozarich. The women in the transportation department will miss her spirit, determination and love she shared with them: Stacey, Nancy and Mary. The parishioners of All Saints Parish, St. Peters, with their pastor, Fr. Don Wester will miss her voice in the choir and her willingness to serve in any way she could.

Sr. Mary Lou's body will return to St. Joseph Chapel at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 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 Wednesday, January 27, from 9:00 - 10:45 a.m. with her Funeral Mass beginning at 11:00 a.m. in St. Joseph Chapel.

We are very grateful to the nurses and staff of Villa Theresa and Sarah Community who cared for Sr. Mary Lou. The opening song for her funeral service, "Here I Am Lord", seems to be a message to us from her: "*Here I am Lord, is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*" Keep us in your heart, Sr. Mary Lou, and enjoy being face to face with the Lord.

Sincerely,



Sr. Fran Raia