

Sister Mary Luke Bauman, C.PP.S.

Born: June 13, 1930

Professed: August 10, 1949

Entered into Life: May 14, 2016

Verse on her memorial card:

**“As the Deer yearns for streams of water,
so my soul; longs for You, O Lord.” (Psalm 42:1)**



Dear Sisters,

Sr. Mary Luke Bauman passed away on the eve of the feast of Pentecost, May 14, 2016. She suffered from cancer and would often say, “Whatever God wants” as she struggled with the pain of the disease. Sr. Mary Luke wanted to die on the feast of the Ascension of Our Lord but instead met Jesus as the Church was preparing to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Born Marie Josephine in Ozora, Missouri, on June 13, 1930, Sr. Mary Luke was the second oldest in a family of five children. *“We lived on a farm. It was during the Great Depression... (we were) growing our own vegetables, raising our own chicken, cows, and pigs; we always had food to eat... I learned the value of working hard, making sacrifices, saving, frugality, as my parents worked hard to provide for us. We always felt loved, never realizing how many sacrifices our parents were making for us.”*

When Sr. Mary Luke started first grade she had to learn English because at home the German dialect, Bodish, was the language spoken. Our Precious Blood Sisters taught in the Ozora public school which was allowed at that time because all the children were Catholic. Sr. Mary Luke was so impressed by the kindness and joy of the Sisters *“that I wanted to be like them. So when I graduated from eighth grade at the age of thirteen, I wanted to enter the aspirancy.”*

Sr. Mary Luke majored in mathematics at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska and at St. Louis University. She was considered a *“math whiz”* and taught arithmetic for thirty years in several elementary and high schools in the St. Louis Archdiocese. The elementary schools include: Holy Innocents, St. George, Holy Family, St. Nicholas, in St. Louis; Sacred Heart, Florissant; St. Patrick, Wentzville and Starkenburg Public in Rhineland, Missouri. Sr. Mary Luke also taught at St. Elizabeth Academy and Bishop DuBourg in St. Louis and then became Principal of two high schools: St. John the Baptist and Valle High in Ste. Genevieve. She was Dean of St. Mary’s Junior College, 1981-84 and ministered with elderly priests at the Regina Cleri residence for twelve years from 1997-2009.

Sr. Mary Luke’s last ministry was sewing in the Ecclesiastical Art Department where she did beautiful and precise work on vestments and stoles for priests. Even though her health was failing she was determined to finish a set of vestments for Ste. Genevieve Parish.

The values of hard work, sacrifice, dedication and prayer were lived out as Sr. Mary Luke embraced all the ministries encountered in her life. She was completely dedicated to the job at hand. For years after she left Valle High School, Sr. Mary Luke followed the games of the football team, attending games whenever she could. A student from St. John the Baptist still kept up with her over the years, remembering Sr. Mary Luke’s kindness to him.

Being a great storyteller, Sr. Mary Luke told this story again shortly before she died. She had two students in St. Patrick School, Wentzville, Joyce Schramm and Joan Klaas, who later became Precious Blood Sisters. She told her class that she was transferred and would have to leave for another school. Joyce Schramm, very sad about this news, told Sr. Mary Luke that she would take her home and hide her in the basement so Reverend Mother wouldn't find her!

A deeply religious woman, Sr. Mary Luke was dedicated to prayer and was often seen meditating in Precious Blood Chapel or praying the rosary. As she coped with the limitations of illness, Sr. Mary Luke went from being independent and a very private person to accepting help from the Sisters and care givers with grace and gratitude. She expressed thanks for the kindness of the Sisters in her local community, for her classmates, and for the understanding and care of Sr. Sandra Barton and Linda Cento.

Sr. Mary Luke dearly loved her brother and sisters, nieces, nephews, and wrote in her autobiography that it was a special blessing to be in Ste. Genevieve because she could visit her family more often.

Earlier in the week she died, Sr. Mary Luke's family were visiting and she announced "we're praying the rosary" and assigned decades to each person to lead. She was organizing her favorite prayer. One of the last things she said was: "*I'm supposed to be saying the Hail Mary when I go through the door.*"

You have gone through the door, Sr. Mary Luke, and are now experiencing the unbounded joy, freedom and healing that comes as you face the Lord. Your longing is fulfilled and we rejoice with you. Please pray for your family and friends, that the Lord sends them comfort and peace.

Sr. Mary Luke Bauman's body will return to St. Joseph Chapel at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 27, 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 Saturday, May 28, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. with her Funeral Mass at 11:00 a.m., all in St. Joseph Chapel.

Glory Be to the Blood of Jesus, Now and Forever, Amen.

Sincerely,

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

Sr. Fran Raia