

Sister Teresa Reichmuth, C.P.P.S.

Born: June 19, 1938

Professed: August 10, 1956

Entered into Life: December 24, 2017

Verse on her memorial card:

**“You seduced me, Lord, and I let myself be seduced;
you were too strong for me and you prevailed.”
(Jer 20:7)**



December 27, 2017

Dear Sisters,

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:1). These words from the first Mass of Christmas became reality for our Sister Teresa Reichmuth at 10:30 p.m. on December 24, 2017, much to the surprise of everyone, including the nurses who were with her when she died. Now free from the Parkinson’s Disease that ravaged her body, Sister Teresa enjoys God’s marvelous light.

The second of six daughters of Joseph and Othelia (Ostell) Reichmuth, Sister Teresa was born on June 19, 1938. She entered our community as a postulant in 1953 at the age of 15 and professed first vows in 1956. She was given the name, Sister Mary Meinrad.

For many years Sister Teresa served on the food services staff at the Motherhouse and St. Elizabeth Academy. She also was a homemaker at St. Henry in Charleston, St. Joseph in Omaha, and Sacred Heart in Florissant. Sister Bernadette Kleine lived with Sister Teresa in Omaha. She fondly recalls how Sister Teresa welcomed Sister Bernadette’s mother to Sunday dinner, just one of many examples of Sister Teresa’s generosity and *home-making*.

In 1982 Sr. Teresa earned an associate’s degree in applied science from the Belleville Area College and began ministering as a physical therapy assistant at our Motherhouse Retirement Center. In 1986, she participated in a sabbatical program at Holy Names College in Oakland, California, receiving a license in creation spirituality. She remained in Oakland until 1989 and continued her physical therapy work there.

Upon returning to Missouri, Sister Teresa ministered again in our retirement center, offering physical therapy and foot care. She also served as the local coordinator of St. Anne retirement community.

Sister Teresa had a great passion for the earth, and she was strongly attracted to native American spirituality. In the 1990’s, she was a very active member of a team that led nature retreats for our Sisters. Sister Teresa wrote that among her favorite places are the

north rim of the Grand Canyon because “God lives there” and Carlsbad Caverns where “God dances.”

Sister Teresa requested cremation as her way of returning to the earth. We will gather in Precious Blood Chapel at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, for a Prayer Service of Thanksgiving and sharing of memories. Her cremains will be returned to St. Joseph Chapel at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, January 3, 2018, and a Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m., also in St. Joseph Chapel.

Sister Teresa was preceded in death by her sister, Mary Elizabeth. She is survived by her sisters, Florence, JoAnn, Carol and Marie Antoinette. Let us keep them in prayer, asking God to shower them with healing love.

There may be no better description of Sister Teresa than what she wrote in an undated *Ethical Will* about how she wants to be remembered -- “As a person who cared for my Sisters. Willing to do what I could when I could. As having common sense and willing to use it. I hope that I treat people as equals, that I don’t shun others or work.”

Sister Teresa, we thank you for the many ways you cared for us, always doing what you could, accepting people and tasks with an open heart and ready spirit. May you find eternal joy in once again being able to sing and dance with your Creator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Janice". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name below it.

Sister Janice Bader