

**Sister Mary William Pezold, C.PP.S.**

**Born: February 17, 1928**

**Professed: August 10, 1949**

**Entered into Life: March 16, 2020**

Verse on her memorial card:

**“I shall know the fullness of joy when I see  
your face, O Lord,”**



March 17, 2020

Dear Sisters,

On Monday, March 16, 2020, our Sister Mary William Pezold went home to the arms of her loving God. As she neared death, she was surrounded by our Sisters Estelle and Marcella and her niece, Annette Lueckenotte. When death was slow in coming, Annette assured Sister Mary William that it was okay to go, that God was waiting to welcome her. Sister Marcella suggested that she might be waiting until 3 p.m., the hour of Jesus' death. At 3 p.m. Sister Mary William breathed her last.

The future Sister Mary William, Geraldine Pezold, was born on February 17, 1928, the first of three children of Herman and Barbara (Neuroth) Pezold-Keim. She was baptized at Holy Cross Church in St. Louis on February 26 of that year.

Sister Mary William entered our novitiate on July 25, 1947 and professed first vows on August 10, 1949. She studied art, earning a bachelor's degree from Fontbonne College and a master's degree from Notre Dame University.

Sister Mary William became an accomplished artist, creating beauty in a variety of media. In 1964, Sister Mary William sketched, designed, cut and inked a balsa wood engraving entitled "Profiles in Peace." The woodcut was comprised of symbols from the life of President John F. Kennedy. She sent one of the first copies as a gift to Mrs. Kennedy.

In 1982, she wrote a reflection on sharing the gift of art with her students. "I have found the art classroom a very special field where the seeds of beauty can be sown and nurtured in the hearts and souls of students. . . Seeing and helping students 'get in touch' with themselves—with the world of creativity—by finding different ways of expressing their ideas and feelings is rewarding."

Sister Mary William taught at the elementary level at St. James School, Crete, NE; Holy Innocents School, St. Louis, MO; St. Patrick School, Wentzville, MO; St. Peter School, Mendota, MN; and Gateway Academy, Hazelwood, MO. She was a teaching principal at

St. Joseph School, Josephville, MO; St. Alphonsus School, Millwood, MO; and St. Mary's School, Moselle, MO. She shared her love of art with high schoolers at Bishop DuBourg and St. John the Baptist in St. Louis, MO and St. Mary's Academy in O'Fallon, MO. She also served for a time in our Ecclesiastical Art Department.

After retiring from full-time classroom teaching, Sister Mary William offered individualized art instruction from the art studio at our Motherhouse in O'Fallon. These classes were featured in the November 21, 1997 *St. Louis Review*, and one of her students told of his awakening to detail: "Things I've never learned to pay attention to before, I now do since I came to this class. I saw things, but I didn't really notice them before." It brought Sister Mary William great satisfaction that one of these students, Dan Prize, is now studying architecture at Notre Dame University applying, the basics of line, shape and form that she taught.

Sister Mary William was preceded in death by her parents and by her sister, Bernice Geisler, and her brother, Donald. She is survived by five nieces, Jerilyn Schodorf, Jeanne Geisler, Annette Lueckenotte, Barbara Collins, and Debbie Jeffries. She also is survived by three nephews, Gary and John Pezold and James Giesler. They have been faithful companions to her throughout the years. Let us remember them in prayer along with Sister Mary William's living profession classmates, Sisters Marcella, Josepha and Rose Margaret.

There will be a private burial service for Sister Mary William, and when the current health care crisis is resolved we will gather for the Prayer Service of Thanksgiving and a Memorial Mass.

Sister Mary William lived her commitment to God and to religious life with strict intensity. She cared deeply about fidelity to the teachings and traditions of the Church. She had a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother, always wearing the brown scapular of the Blessed Virgin along with several medals, including an especially treasured medal of St. Benedict.

We trust that Sister Mary William is now experiencing the truth of the verse that she chose for her memorial card, "I shall know the fullness of joy when I see your face, O Lord" (*Responsory Tuesday Evening Prayer, Roman Office*). May her joy now be complete!

Sincerely,



Sr. Janice Bader