

Sister Dorothy Ann Katke, C.PP.S.

Born: July 22, 1944

Professed: August 10, 1963

Entered into Life: February 1, 2021

Verse on her memorial card:

“This is what the Lord asks: Act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

February 5, 2021

Dear Sisters,



At approximately 4:20 p.m. on Monday, February 1, 2021, our Sister Dorothy Ann Katke made her final journey to the arms of God. It seems likely that Sister Julie Wolf was with her on the phone at the time of her death; a few minutes after the phone connection dropped, the nurse returned to the hospital room and found that Sister Dorothy Ann had passed.

Born on July 22, 1944, and baptized Cheryl Ann at the Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in St. Louis, Sister Dorothy Ann was the third of five children of George and Dorothy (Schulz) Katke. She met our Sisters at Our Lady of Fatima grade school, entered our novitiate in 1961, and professed first vows on August 10, 1963. Upon her retirement in 2016, she wrote, “I left for the convent at the age of 17. My dear mom thought I’d be back home in a week. I guess I fooled her . . . Here I am 53 years later very happy in my vocation.”

Sister Dorothy Ann completed a bachelor’s degree in Education at Fontbonne College. She spent sixteen years teaching at the kindergarten and elementary school levels. She taught at St. George, Holy Innocents, and Holy Family in St. Louis and at St. Paul in Fenton, MO.

In 1979, Sister Dorothy Ann felt that God was calling her to a new ministry. She spent the summer volunteering with Sister Catherine Schallom who was retiring from ministry to the elderly at St. Pius Parish in St. Louis. In September 1979, Sister Dorothy Ann began full time ministry to the elders of St. Pius and continued there for the next thirty-five years.

Sister Dorothy Ann said she “met many wisdom figures, faith-filled people, and good friends” during her time at St. Pius. One of the elders she visited wrote, “Sister Dorothy Ann is a beam of sunshine and full of good humor each time she visits me.” A parishioner who helped Sister Dorothy Ann deliver holiday meals for the home-bound wrote, “All I hear is how much they love Sister Dorothy Ann and the many ways she helps them. The list is endless from taking them to the doctor, grocery shopping, helping them move into

nursing homes, helping them with their medication, balancing their check books, and most of all being a good listener. I have named her Mother Teresa of St. Pius Parish.”

Sister Dorothy Ann moved to Villa Theresa Apartments in November 2020. In the few months she was here, she brought that same care and concern to all, both sisters and lay residents. She endeared herself to many through her offers of a listening ear and a helping hand.

Sister Dorothy Ann was preceded in death by her parents and by her brother, Ken. She is survived by her brother, George (Nancy), and her sisters Mary (Mike) Brautigam and Jan (Jerry) Grammer. She also is survived by her nephew, Steve Cunningham, Sr., her great-nephew Steven Cunningham, Jr. as well as by many friends. Please keep all of them in your prayers.

A prayer service and sharing of memories will take place via Zoom at a time still to be determined. Sister Dorothy Ann’s cremains will return to St. Joseph Chapel on Friday, February 19, 2021. A funeral Mass will be celebrated in St. Joseph Chapel at 11 a.m. that day. Due to Covid-19, attendance is limited to residents of Villa Theresa Apartments. Another Mass will be celebrated at Assumption Parish at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 20, 2021. Attendance there is limited to CPPS Sisters and family members. Burial will take place after the Saturday Mass.

During the last weeks of her life, as breathing became increasingly difficult, Sister Dorothy Ann spoke frequently of being ready to die. She shared with one of her friends that the Gospel often tells of Jesus asking people what they want. She remarked that although the gospel answer usually was, “I want to be healed,” or “I want to see,” Dorothy Ann told Jesus she wanted to die. On February 1, her prayer was answered -- too soon for those of us left behind, but for her, it was just what she wanted. To paraphrase the words she chose for her memorial card, we can imagine that she heard, “You have practiced justice, loved tenderly, and walked humbly with me. Welcome home.”

Sincerely,

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

Sr. Janice Bader