

## **Sister Carol Donohue, C.PP.S.**

**Born: August 1, 1941**

**Professed: August 10, 1966**

**Entered into Life: December 31, 2021**

Verse on her memorial card:

**“Joy is the echo of God’s Life within us.”**

**- Abbot Columba Marmion**



January 3, 2022

Dear Sisters,

At approximately 9:35 p.m. on Friday, December 31, 2021, (11:35 p.m. in her beloved second home of Bolivia) our Sister Carol Donohue slipped quietly away in her sleep to begin the celebration of the New Year and her new life in her heavenly home.

Caroline Mundy Donohue was born on August 1, 1941, in St. Louis, MO, the oldest of two children of Thomas and Julia (Miller) Donohue. After graduating from Ursuline Academy, she studied at Southeast Missouri State University before beginning to teach at St. Clement School. There she met our sisters.

Carol entered our novitiate in 1964 and received the name, Terrance, her brother’s formal name. She professed first vows on August 10, 1966. She completed a bachelor’s degree in special education from Fontbonne College. She received a master’s degree in learning disabilities from Peabody College (now Vanderbilt University) in Nashville, TN. Sister Carol taught elementary grades at St. Mary in Glasgow, MO, and at St. Monica and St. Nicholas in St. Louis. She also taught at DeAndreis High School in St. Louis.

Love for the poor and passion for justice led Carol to Cass Catholic Worker House in St. Louis where she ministered for ten years. Recognizing that direct service must be accompanied by efforts to address the root causes of poverty, she became involved with the establishment of Community Land Trust of St. Louis, a not-for-profit housing corporation that developed affordable rental housing. She was tireless in fundraising for the programs of Catholic Worker and the Land Trust. In recognition of her efforts, the Trust developed a neighborhood playground and dedicated it in her honor.

In 1989 Sister Carol spent some sabbatical time in La Paz, Bolivia. The needs there captured her heart; and in June 1990, she began the first of twenty-six years of service in Bolivia. The theme she chose for her departure ceremony guided everything she

did: “This is what Yahweh, your God, asks of you: to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

In Bolivia, she worked with Amanecer, serving primarily with the programs for street children. She was a fierce advocate on their behalf. She was not afraid to approach the government agencies that purportedly helped the children but sometimes were part of the systemic abuse. When glue-sniffing became a serious problem, she urged the St. Louis area religious communities to use their shareholder strength to approach the firms that sold this addictive substance, the sale of which was no longer permitted in the States.

While she longed to be in direct service, she was once again called to help with fund-raising. During her first year in Bolivia she wrote, “I really enjoy working with the older boys. . . However, I’m working on my attitude about fund-raising and with time, I may become more tolerant.” And, indeed, she did! In 2012 she wrote, “We must take seriously the responsibility to ask when necessary for the help required to care for the children. . . We come in the name of the children.” She inspired donors with stories of the successes—children who completed their studies, who conquered addiction, who returned to their families—and was grateful to all whose support made this possible.

When memory issues became a concern, Carol returned to the States where she continued to speak for the poor until her own voice was taken from her. Sister Carol was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her brother, Terry, and his wife, Barbara, her nephew, Neal, and his wife, Andrea. Terry calls Carol his “hero,” and I suspect he was also a hero to Sr. Carol (Terrance). Please keep her family and profession classmates close in prayer.

We will welcome Sister Carol’s body to St. Joseph Chapel for a wake at 9 a.m. on Friday, January 7, 2022. There will be a sharing of memories at 10:30 and the celebration of her funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Burial will be in our convent cemetery.

The sisters who lived and served with Carol in Bolivia recall one of her favorite sayings from Abbot Marmion, “Joy is the echo of God’s life within us.” Joy and love echoed through Carol in her service as a voice for the voiceless. We trust she has regained her voice and is now an even more powerful advocate “in the name of the children.” May she be experiencing the fullness of joy in God’s presence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Janice Bader". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Sr. Janice Bader