

Sister Estelle Sullentrup, C.PP.S.

Born: November 8, 1923

Professed: August 10, 1944

Entered into Life: April 26, 2022

Verse on her memorial card:

“Make us an everlasting gift to God, our Father.” Eucharistic Prayer No. 3



April 29, 2022

Dear Sisters,

Shortly after 8:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, our Sister Estelle Sullentrup slipped peacefully from this life as Sisters Sandra Barton, Michaleen Vomund, and Helene Cooke surrounded her with their prayers.

Born on November 8, 1923, Estelle was the only daughter of John and Cecilia (Maune) Sullentrup. She had four brothers, an older brother who died at birth and three younger brothers. Her parents named her “Ardene,” but the pastor, requiring a saint’s name, baptized her “Estelle.” She came to treasure this accidental name. In her autobiography she wrote, “Estelle means Star. I have hoped to be like a star, faithfully doing God’s will – at times leading, especially in teaching children, and also following Jesus, the Star in my life’s journey to heaven.”

Estelle entered our novitiate in 1942 receiving the name, Sister Tarcisia. She professed first vows on August 10, 1944. She completed a bachelor’s degree in education at Quincy College in Quincy, Illinois.

For fifty-eight years Sister Estelle brought a quiet, gentle strength to elementary school classrooms. In Missouri she taught at St. Agnes, Bloomsdale; Our Lady Help of Christians, Weingarten; St. Theodore, Flint Hill; All Saints, St. Peters; Assumption, Mattese; St. Brendan, Mexico; Most Sacred Heart, Florissant; St. Lawrence the Martyr, Bridgeton; St. Elizabeth Academy and Holy Family, St. Louis. She also taught at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Las Cruces, New Mexico and at St. Rose of Lima in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Her deep love and respect for each student was reciprocated by their love and respect for her.

After retiring from teaching, Sister Estelle served for nineteen years in pastoral care at DePaul Health Center. She described this ministry as a great blessing, and it is easy to imagine what a blessing she was to the patients she visited.


Always gracious, gentle, generous, and grateful, Sister Estelle's most frequent words may have been "thank you." She sent notes of thanks for the smallest kindness and concluded every visit and phone call with "thank you." Years before our community chose "All Is Gift" as the theme for our 175th anniversary year, those words were a frequent refrain for her and served as the summation of her 2010 autobiography.

Sister Estelle was preceded in death by her parents and by her brothers, John, Harold, and Glennon. She is survived by nieces, nephews, and scores of friends with whom she maintained faithful contact. Please hold them in prayer as her sudden and unexpected death leaves a great void.

There will be a wake at Baue Funeral Home in O'Fallon from 4-8 p.m. on Monday, May 2, 2022. We will welcome Sister Estelle's body to St. Joseph Chapel at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 3, and the wake will continue there until the celebration of her Funeral Mass at 2 p.m. that day. Sister Estelle will be buried in our convent cemetery.

Among Sister Estelle's treasured papers and photos was an envelope with numerous quotes about stars, including this from Daniel 12:3 – "The wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament. And those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars." Sister Estelle certainly was such a star, leading many to justice and to Jesus. Each time we see a star, may we remember her with gratitude and acknowledge that "all is gift."

Sincerely,

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

Sr. Janice Bader