

## **Sister Mary Joan Dyer, C.PP.S.**

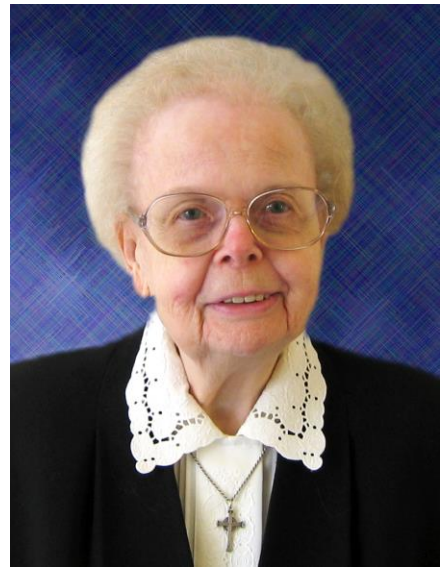
**Born: August 14, 1926**

**Professed: August 10, 1945**

**Entered into Life: May 6, 2022**

Verse on her memorial card:

**“I will sing the mercies of the Lord forever.”  
Psalm 89:1**



May 9, 2022

Dear Sisters,

On Friday afternoon, May 6, 2022, our Sister Mary Joan Dyer was freed from all pain as she left this life for her heavenly home. Her health declined precipitously at the beginning of the week. Throughout the intervening days, her niece, Julie Dorsey, stayed faithfully at Sister Mary Joan's side and was with her when she died. Her dear cousin and faithful friend, Gerard Mudd, also visited frequently during these days.

Sister Mary Joan was born in Millwood, Missouri on August 14, 1926. She was baptized the next day, receiving the name Mary Ann. She was the second of four children of Howard and Mary (Schneider) Dyer.

Mary Ann entered our novitiate in 1943 and professed first vows on August 10, 1945, as Sister Mary Joan. She completed a bachelor's degree at Fontbonne College and a master's degree at Middlebury College in Vermont, both in French. Completion of her degrees was not the end of her learning; she availed herself of every opportunity to take courses and workshops that would enhance her ability to teach and serve.

Sister Mary Joan loved everything French, including her patron, St. Joan of Arc. She treasured the opportunities she had to visit and study in France as well as the friendships she developed there. The chance to converse in French was always a delight for her.

Sister Mary Joan taught elementary school through college. In Missouri, she served at Most Sacred Heart, Florissant; St. Domenico Home, Holy Family School (as teacher and principal), Bishop DuBourg High School, all in St. Louis; and, at St.

Mary's College, O'Fallon. Outside of Missouri, she taught at St. James School, Crete, NE; St. Joseph School, Des Moines, IA; St. Charles Academy, Stratton, CO; and at The English School, Helsinki, Finland.

She was a highly organized and exceptionally creative teacher, always willing to give students extra help. As a principal, she provided her teachers with an atmosphere that allowed for their creativity.


After returning from Finland, Sister Mary Joan served as secretary to the congregational administration and later as congregational archivist. In a 1995 community newsletter, Sister Concordia Luecke described her: "Sister Mary Joan is the right hand and foot of the administration and of every group needing services. She is a supremely behind the scene's powerhouse. . . Her finished products are beautiful, in correct English, highly polished, and of course, perfect to the last comma and period."

Sister Mary Joan was preceded in death by her parents and by her brothers Howard and Robert Dyer and her half-brother, Louis Bonnarens. She is survived by nieces, cousins, and many friends, both here and abroad. Please hold them in prayer.

We will welcome Sister Mary Joan's body to St. Joseph Chapel at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. The wake will continue until 1:30 p.m. when we will have a sharing of memories followed by the funeral Mass at 2 p.m. Sister Mary Joan will be buried in our convent cemetery.

Sister Mary Joan's recent years held much suffering. At the time of her mother's death she wrote of her gratitude that her mother's pain was ended. These words seem fitting now as well, "Hers was a life of suffering, both physical and mental, of prayer and union with God. She was well prepared to meet her Creator." We rejoice that Sister Mary Joan now is free from her suffering. We can imagine her saying, "Jésus, je t'aime. Ta présence est ma joie." (Jesus, I love you. Your presence is my joy.)

Sincerely,

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

Sr. Janice Bader