

Sister Isabelle Walsh, C.PP.S.

Born: April 12, 1927

Professed: August 10, 1952

Entered into Life: October 15, 2022

Verse on her memorial card:

“The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.” Psalm 23:1



October 18, 2022

Dear Sisters,

At approximately 8:35 a.m. on Saturday, October 15, 2022, our Sister Isabelle Walsh left us to rest gently in God’s loving arms. To paraphrase the words she chose for her memorial card, “The Lord is her shepherd; there is nothing more she wants.”

Dorothy Walsh (Sister Isabelle) was born in St. Louis, MO, on Tuesday of Holy Week, April 12, 1927, the only child of Frank and Elizabeth (Luzynski) Walsh. She was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 17, at St. Lawrence O’Toole Church. When she was three years old, the family moved to a home across the street from St. Agatha Rectory and School. It was there that Dorothy met and grew to love our sisters.

After graduation from grade school in 1941, Dorothy entered our community’s aspirancy in O’Fallon. As an only child, she was delighted to be living with dozens of other girls. She was received into the novitiate on July 25, 1945, receiving the name, Sister Isabelle. After her father died in January 1946, Sister Isabelle returned home in May 1947 to care for her mother.

Upon returning home, Dorothy enrolled in Rubican Business College studying secretarial practice and accounting. She got a job with a law firm and progressed in her career from assistant bookkeeper to head bookkeeper and was preparing for the auditor’s position when she decided that her mother was well enough to be on her own.

Dorothy returned to O’Fallon in January 1950, and she was received into the novitiate for the second time on July 25 of that year. She professed vows on August 10, 1952, and she reached her 70th anniversary of profession this year, 2022.

Sister Isabelle completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology at Fontbonne College and a master's in special education at Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee, WI.

Sister Isabelle taught elementary grades at St. Peter's School in Quincy, IL and at Holy Family School and St. Domenico Home in St. Louis. She served in special education at Sacred Heart in Florissant and at Holy Innocents and St. Joseph's Vocational Center, both in St. Louis.

Sister Isabelle could be fiery and feisty, but she was a kind, loving, and patient teacher. She wrote, "Those of you who know me know how I flare up quickly. Yet I have been patient with these handicapped children of mine—repeated shoe tying—counting the number of fingers on a hand—reading and re-reading the same Primary 1 books—showing and reshowing colors."

Upon retiring from teaching Sister Isabelle became a hand stitcher in our community's Ecclesiastical Art Department. With great patience and skill, she lovingly hand stitched the symbols for the four evangelists and the faces of Saints Vincent de Paul, Philippine Duchesne, and St. Louis which adorned the stole gifted to Pope John Paul II on his 1999 visit to St. Louis. The accountant in her kept careful track of the hours—197 hours and 10 minutes!

Sister Isabelle was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by cousins, including Fran Reisinger with whom she kept in contact while she was still able. Let us hold in prayer all of those who will miss her, her sense of humor and her beautiful smile with which she gifted us for many years.

We will welcome Sister Isabelle's body to St. Joseph Chapel at 1 p.m. on Monday, October 24, 2022. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2:30 p.m. that day. Sister Isabelle will be buried in our convent cemetery. Sister Isabelle requested no sharing of memories, but she did write her own eulogy which we will share before the Mass.

Sister Isabelle spent many hours prayerfully stitching the faces of Christ and the saints. We rejoice that she is now beholding those faces, looking lovingly upon her as she so lovingly looked upon them.

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