

Sister Luella Dames, C.P.P.S.

Born: January 24, 1933

Professed: August 10, 1947

Entered into Life: December 11, 2022

Verse on her memorial card:

“Strong is God’s love for us, God is faithful forever.” Psalm 117:2



December 13, 2022

Dear Sisters,

At approximately 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 11, 2022, Sister Luella Dames’ time of Advent waiting reached fulfillment. How appropriate that one whose life was so steeped in the liturgical year should celebrate the end of Gaudete Sunday rejoicing in the arms of God. As God called Sister Luella to her heavenly home, her sisters Celine and Clara were at her bedside.

Luella Dames was born in O’Fallon, MO, on January 24, 1933, the third of ten children of Eugene and Frances (Albers) Dames. Luella entered our community as a postulant on her 22nd birthday, January 24, 1955. She wrote, “I wanted to give my life back to God on the day He gave it to me.” She became a novice on July 25 of that year, receiving the name Sister Frances Eugene in honor of her parents. She professed first vows on August 10, 1957.

Sister Luella completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education at the University of Missouri. She held three master’s degrees: one in Counseling from Indiana State University; one in Spirituality from Creighton University in Omaha, NE; and one in Music Education from Washington University in St. Louis.

Sister Luella taught elementary grades at Holy Family and St. Clement in St. Louis, MO, at Our Lady of Fatima and Sacred Heart in Florissant, MO, and she was a teaching principal at St. Agnes, Bloomsdale, MO. Sister Luella also served as a counselor at St. Elizabeth Academy in St. Louis and as campus minister and instructor at St. Mary’s College in O’Fallon. She gave ten years of service as vocation directress, leading our community’s efforts to promote vocations to religious life.

Love of the liturgy was a cornerstone of Sister Luella’s life. She served as organist and director of liturgy at Incarnate Word Parish in Chesterfield, MO; at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in St. Charles, MO; as well as at our motherhouse in O’Fallon.

Leading persons to know and love God was the primary motivator in Sister Luella's life. Throughout her ministries as teacher, vocation promoter, musician, spiritual director, and as a liturgical educator, planner and leader, her desire was always the same – to help others deepen their relationship with God.

Sister Luella deeply appreciated our community's liturgical heritage and dedicated herself to carrying it forward. She was intense and determined in her efforts to promote an appreciation of the Eucharist and the Divine Office. She was active in the National Pastoral Musicians Association and promoted the formation of the Duchesne Branch for the St. Charles area, serving as its founding director. In 2002, she was nominated for the St. Clare of Assisi Award by the St. Louis Archdiocesan Committee on Women in the Church. This award honors women who guide and accompany others on their faith journey.

Sister Luella was preceded in death by her parents and by her brothers, Eugene (Rose Mary) and Frank (LaVerne) Dames. She was also preceded in death by her sisters Loretta (Ben) Keaveny, Helen (Junior) Segrass, and Ruth Dyer and her brother-in-law, Vernon Griesbauer. She is survived by her sisters, Mary (Bob) Schuette, Celine Griesbauer, Clara (Paul) Hoeckelmann, and Theresa (Alex) Hernandez; by her brother-in-law, Patrick Dyer; and by many nieces and nephews. Let us hold in prayer all those who will miss her earthly presence.

We will welcome Sister Luella's body to St. Joseph's Chapel at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2022. A Prayer of Thanksgiving, including sharing of memories, will take place at 7 p.m. Her wake will continue Friday, December 16, from 1 until 1:45 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 2:00 p.m. that day, also in St. Joseph Chapel. Sister Luella wrote that she wants her funeral liturgy "to be a very joyful celebration – a victory event." Let us honor her wishes as we celebrate her life.

Sister Luella chose Psalm 117:2 for her memorial card, "Strong is God's love for us; God is faithful forever." We give thanks that she is now experiencing the fullness of this proclamation. Her resolute and unwavering commitment to God has reached its fulfillment, and we trust that she now rests in full awareness of God's strong, faithful love.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Janice Bader". The ink is dark and the writing is fluid, with a distinct loop at the end of the name.

Sr. Janice Bader