

Sister Mary Catherine Feldewert, C.PP.S.

Born: December 24, 1941

Professed: August 10, 1962

Entered into Life: May 15, 2023

Verse on her memorial card:

“The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Blessed be the Lord.”



Dear Sisters,

At approximately 2:40 p.m. on May 15, 2023, Sister Mary Catherine Feldewert went peacefully into God’s embrace as Sister Suzanne prayed quietly at her side. At the end of April, Sister Mary Catherine recognized that death was near, and with peace and calm, she requested hospice care. During the intervening weeks, family members, sisters, and friends were at her side around the clock.

Mary Catherine was born in Josephville, Missouri, on December 24, 1941, a wonderful Christmas gift to her family. She was the second of four children, and the only daughter of Alexander and Leona (Sommer) Feldewert.

After her junior year at Assumption High School in O’Fallon, Mary Catherine entered our community. She became a novice on July 25, 1960, receiving the name Sister Ann Alexis. She professed first vows on August 10, 1962, and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in history at Maryville University in 1968.

Sister Mary Catherine taught elementary grades in Missouri at St. Sabina, Florissant; St. Paul, Fenton; St. John the Baptist, Villa Ridge; and St. Agatha and St. Nicholas in St. Louis. She also taught at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Perhaps her greatest asset as a teacher was her deep care and concern for the well-being of each student, particularly those with the greatest needs.

In 1983, Sister Mary Catherine felt called to respond to “the cry of the poor” (Psalm 34). She spent a year visiting and volunteering with our sisters in Peru and Bolivia. Then, for twenty-eight years Mary Catherine answered that cry in Bolivia, serving at Maria Reina Parish in LaPaz and at Casa Nazareth and San Vicente School in Cochabamba. The people of Bolivia captured her heart and enflamed her desire for justice and mercy.

During her years at Casa Nazareth, she truly became “mother” to the twenty-plus boys, ages five to twelve, who lived there. She saw them off to school each morning, and for several years went with them, serving as teacher and principal at San Vincente. She welcomed them home from school each day, made certain they completed their homework and had time for play. At night, she went to each child’s bed and prayed with him. Hermana Cati, as she was known to the boys, provided stability for lives filled with insecurity. She provided deep parental love to the abandoned. Her lasting impact is visible in the lives of the now successful men who went into professional careers, including a doctor who serves with Doctors Without Borders.

Sister Mary Catherine was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers, Charles and Robert. She is survived by her brother, Marvin, and his wife, Sharon, and by her sister-in-law, Rosalie Feldewert. She is also survived by nieces and nephews of several generations, profession classmates, many friends, and hundreds whom she mothered at Casa Nazareth. Please keep them, the sisters who served with her in Bolivia, and her faithful friend, Sister Anna Marie Himmelberg, in prayer.

We will welcome Sister Mary Catherine’s cremains to St. Joseph’s Chapel at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 27, 2023. We will gather for Sharing of Memories at 2 p.m. followed by the Mass of Christian Burial at 2:30 p.m. Her burial will be in our convent cemetery.

For her memorial card Sister Mary Catherine chose paraphrased words from Psalm 34, “The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Blessed be the Lord.” We give thanks for the many ways that she responded to that cry throughout her life.

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