

Sister Luanna Brucks, C.PP.S.

Born: January 2, 1925

Professed: August 10, 1945

Entered into Life: October 11, 2023

Verse on her memorial card:

**“I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have loved you and you are mine.” Jeremiah 31:3**



October 16, 2023

Dear Sisters, Family, and Friends,

Around 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, our Sister Luanna Brucks left this earthly life. Several of the sisters from the Abbey had been praying quietly with her until leaving for the 9:30 rosary; a few minutes later a nurse came to check on Sister Luanna and found that she had gone home to the arms of her loving God.

Harriet Brucks was the third of five children of Edward and Christine (Brand) Brucks. She and her twin brother, Harold, were born in Glasgow, Missouri, on January 2, 1925. Their mother died when they were eight years old. Sister Luanna recalled that her father was a quiet man who did not express much affection. Yet, she trusted his love as demonstrated when he asked one of our sisters to teach him to sew so that he could make the costumes his children needed for a school event.

Harriet felt that our sisters in Glasgow filled her mother's place in many ways and decided at a very early age that she wanted to be a sister. She did wonder, however, if sisters "had to be born with all those clothes on." Her desire for religious life persisted, and Harriet was received into our novitiate on July 25, 1943, receiving the name Sister Luanna. She professed first vows on August 10, 1945.

Sister Luanna earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Fontbonne College in St. Louis and a Master of Arts degree from DePaul University in Chicago, both in Music Education. An avid reader and a life-long learner, these degrees marked but the beginning of her education. The loss of her eyesight in recent years was a heavy cross, but she continued to seek knowledge and remained informed about events of our community and the world.

Sister Luanna taught at every level, from kindergarten through college, though she quipped that kindergarten was a "total failure;" she only taught there one day. In Missouri, she taught at St. Peter, Fulton; St. Patrick, Wentzville; Most Sacred Heart, Florissant; Holy Innocents, St. Elizabeth Academy, and Bishop DuBourg High School in St. Louis; St. Mary's Academy and St. Mary's College in O'Fallon; and St. Charles County Community College in St. Peters. She also taught at St. Peter in Quincy, Illinois, and at St. Joseph High School in Omaha, NE. Sr. Luanna was an exacting and beloved

teacher, and many of her students remained in contact with her. She particularly enjoyed directing high school musicals because it developed a deep sense of community among the students.

When Sister Luanna found her energy level declining, she knew it was time to stop teaching. She began serving as a parish liturgist, musician, and pastoral minister. She served at St. Pius X Parish in Moberly, MO, and at St. Peter Parish in Marshall, MO.

Sister Luanna requested that the following quotation from Father Pedro Arrupe, SJ, be included in this memorial letter. It speaks volumes about the way she lived her life.

Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, grow in love, and it will decide everything!

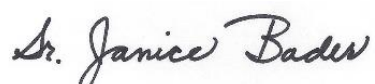
And these are her words of advice for a happy life: “Get up each morning knowing that God loves you and take it from there.” Upon her retirement, she devoted herself to prayer and to reaching out in welcome to each resident of Villa Theresa and the Abbey, often saying that these elder years were perhaps the most important of her entire life.

Sister Luanna was preceded in death by her parents and her siblings, Arnold (Gladys) Brucks, Mary Lou (Willis) Perry, Harold (Mary Margaret and Earline) Brucks, and Marion (Fabian) Groteweil. She is also survived by nieces and nephews of several generations. Let us keep them in our prayers as they mourn the loss of her earthly presence.

We will welcome Sister Luanna’s body to St. Joseph’s Chapel at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 28, 2023. The wake will begin at 1 p.m. and the 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 the cover of her funeral liturgy, Sister Luanna requested the words from a song by Gregory Norbet, “Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living deeply our new life.” We trust that the mutual longing between Sister Luanna and the Love of her life is now fulfilled.

Sincerely,

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

Sr. Janice Bader