



Joan Bocklet, SSND
Dec. 27, 1932 – April 17, 2019



BALTIMORE – Sister Joan Bocklet, SSND, died at Villa Assumpta in Baltimore on April 17, 2019. Sister Joan was a vowed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 66 years.

Joan Julia was born on December 27, 1932 and was baptized at St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia on the first day of the new year, 1933. "School life" began for Joan in Sept., 1938, at St. Peter's School, where she was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. It was a "happy day" in May, 1939 when Joan received her first Holy Communion at St. Peter's Church. She was confirmed at St. Peter's two years later by Bishop Hugh Lamb.

Joan was a grammar school student during the years of World War II. She told the following in her autobiography, "Having been taught a great devotion to the Blessed Mother by my parents, I made a promise to Our Lady that I would give my life to God if she would bring my brothers home safely from the war. My brothers did return safely and although I still had devotion to our Lady, I gave little thought to the promise I had made."

Joan graduated from St. Peter's School in June 1946 and spent her high school years at Immaculate Conception Academy, Philadelphia where she was taught by the Religious of the Good Shepherd. As a sophomore, Joan "began to think of the promise I had made to Our Lady. Determined to keep it, I started to pray daily for the grace of a vocation." At her high school graduation on June 9, 1950, Joan had "only one aim for the future, that of entering the convent." Joan received the bonnet at St. Peter's Convent on August 28, 1950. As a candidate, she taught third grade at St. John's School, Bergenfield, N.J. She entered the novitiate on July 16, 1952 and was given the name, Sister Thecla Marie. Sister Thecla Marie professed her first vows on July 24, 1953.

Sister Thecla Marie continued her teaching career at St. Anthony of Padua School, South Ozone Park, N.Y. (1953-58) and St. Boniface School, Philadelphia (1958-61). Called to Florida, she taught at St. John's School, St. Petersburg Beach ((1961-66) before becoming principal at Corpus Christi, Temple Terrace (1966-67) and St. John's (1967-70). In Baltimore, Joan was administrator of schools at Our Lady of Fatima (1970-74) and St. Pius X (1974-80).

Sister Joan ministered as principal at Resurrection School, Ellicott City, Md. (1981-87), then went to Sacred Heart parish in Tampa, Fla. where she was program director of parish social services (1987-89) and principal of Sacred Heart School (1989-94). As she took leave of the children of Sacred Heart School in 1994, they expressed their appreciation of her efforts and especially cherished the love she gave them, as she listened to their problems, worried about them, gave them guidance and support.

Joan became assistant administrator (1994-2002), then director of education of St. Vincent's Orphanage, Tacony, Philadelphia (2002-05). She also volunteered, ministering at Aid for Friends for more than 10 years. Joan cooked and delivered meals to the elderly and disabled homebound; she listened to their problems and made a difference in their lives.

Joan received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with a minor in English from St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y. in 1962. She earned a Master of Arts degree in Education with a minor in Mathematics from Villanova University in 1970.

Joan embraced God's grace and there was peace about her as she approached the end of life with confidence, love and gratitude. The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated by Rev. Paul M. Kennedy, pastor of St. Katherine of Siena Church, Philadelphia, Joan's parish church. Joan's cremains were buried at Villa Maria Cemetery, Glen Arm Rd., Glen Arm, Md. Sister Joan Bocklet is survived by nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic Midwest Province, c/o Development Office, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, Conn. 06897 or online: www.amssnd.org

