



Sr. Ursula Hoefel, OP

August 2, 1915 – April 30, 2010

Sr. Ursula Hoefel (94) died on Friday, April 30, 2010, at Regina Health Center in Richfield, OH, in her 74th year of religious profession.

Born to Charles and Mary (Bernard) Hoefel in Akron, Ohio, Caroline Hoefel was one of seven children. She graduated from St. Mary High School in 1933 and entered the Novitiate of the former Sisters of St. Dominic of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Akron) in 1934. She made her Final Profession of Vows as Sr. Ursula Hoefel in 1936.

Sr. Ursula earned a BSE in education from Siena Heights College in Adrian, MI. Her 40-year ministry in education brought her to many schools: St. Paul, Akron, OH (1936-37); St. Joseph, Alliance, OH (1937-44, 65-71); St. Vincent, Akron, OH (1944-45); Our Lady of the Elms Preschool, Akron, OH (1945-52, 61-64); Immaculate Conception, Ravenna, OH (1952-61); St. Felicitas, Cleveland, OH (1964-65); and Regina Coeli, Alliance, OH (1974-76). Later, Sr. Ursula ministered at St. Thomas Hospital (Akron, OH) as the patient service secretary, and in admissions and environmental services (1976-87); St. Dominic School (Youngstown, OH) as a volunteer and Kindergarten aide (1987-88); and the Ursuline Motherhouse (Canfield, OH) as a receptionist and special services volunteer (1988-95). Sr. Ursula continued in community service at the Our Lady of the Elms Motherhouse (Akron, OH) before moving to Regina Health Center in 2004, where she entered a ministry of prayer.

With her beautiful and welcoming smile, Sr. Ursula was always well-liked by her students and their families, as well as by staff members with whom she interacted every day. Her hobbies included reading, singing, and playing music.

Sr. Ursula was the consummate “lifelong learner” and took many an opportunity to acquire a new skill. In her free moments while in ministry at St. Thomas Hospital, she learned to drive and to play the piano. She also learned to square dance, which she enjoyed very much, and eventually she learned to play the organ and write music at Cuyahoga Falls Music Center. While ministering in Alliance, she learned the guitar and played with the music group at Regina Coeli Church.

The wake was held on Monday, May 3, from 3 to 7pm and the funeral liturgy on Tuesday, May 4, at 10am, both at The Dominican Sisters of Peace Akron Motherhouse (Our Lady of the Elms Convent).

Memorial gifts in Sr. Ursula’s memory may be sent to the Dominican Sisters of Peace at 2320 Airport Dr., Columbus, OH 43219-2098.