



Sr. Mary Martha Pitschmann, OP

November 27, 1910 – June 13, 2010

Sr. Mary Martha Pitschmann (99) died on Sunday evening, June 13, 2010, in Akron, Ohio, in her 78th year of religious profession.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, to Othmar and Martha (Hummel) Pitschmann, Alice C. Pitschmann was the second of eight children. She entered the Sisters of St. Dominic of Akron in 1930 from Immaculate Conception Church, Madison, Ohio, and made her First Profession on September 12, 1931.

In the first decades of Sr. Martha's religious life she served in education, both as teacher and administrator, in various Ohio schools. She earned a BSE and an MA in Education Administration from St. John College, Cleveland. She taught at Sacred Heart Academy, St. Bernard, St. Paul, St. Matthew and Our Lady of the Elms, all in Akron, and at St. Agatha, Cleveland. She ministered as both teacher and principal at St. Augustine School, Barberton (1935-48), and St. Joseph, Alliance (1951-56) and was principal at Our Lady of the Elms Elementary School, Akron (1957-63).

In 1957, Sr. Martha was elected vicaress and first councilor for her congregation. With a later decision to change ministry, she attended Akron School of Practical Nursing and earned her LPN in 1978. She ministered in nursing care at St. Edward Home, Bath, and later served as a nurse, supervisor, and director of nursing at Our Lady of the Elms Wellness Center. She retired in 2000 but had continued to perform community service at the Elms Wellness Center.

Sr. Mary Martha will be remembered as a woman who embraced life fully. Much of what contributed to her vivaciousness was her keen and sincere interest in people. Her dependable memory and warm demeanor made her an engaging conversationalist and a wonderful storyteller. Even as the years progressed, she remained sharp, alert, and active, and attended chapel daily even until just a few days before her death. This fall she would have celebrated her 100th birthday.

Sister Martha was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Edward, Carl, and Louis, and her sisters Rita Pitschmann and Esther O'Loughlin. She is survived by her brother Alvin of Columbus, Ohio, her sister Helen Peitzmeyer of Raleigh, North Carolina, and many nieces and nephews.

The wake service for Sr. Mary Martha will be held at the Akron Motherhouse on Wednesday, June 16, from 3:00 to 7:00 pm, with the wake service at 4:00pm. The funeral Mass will be on Thursday, June 17, at 9:30am, followed by burial at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Memorial gifts in Sr. Mary Martha's memory may be sent to Dominican Sisters of Peace, 2320 Airport Dr., Columbus, OH 43219-2098.