



Sr. Teresa Sommer

July 27, 1928 – February 6, 2010

Sr. Teresa Sommer (81) died on Saturday, February 6, 2010, at Mohun Health Care Center (Columbus, OH) in her 57th year of religious profession.

Born to Aloysius and Freda (Ante) Sommer, Teresa was raised in Portsmouth, Ohio. She attended St. Mary High School and went on to former Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, where she became a registered nurse. Teresa entered the Dominican Novitiate of the former St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, congregation in 1951 and made her first Profession of Vows in 1953.

In 1956, Sr. Teresa graduated from St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University, Columbus) with a BS in biology. Later, she attended Notre Dame University and earned an MA in English. In the early 1950s, Sr. Teresa ministered in Ohio as a nurse at both the former St. George Hospital (Cincinnati) and St. Mary of the Springs Infirmary (Columbus). Following her service as a nurse, Sr. Teresa began a ministry of teaching, which brought her all over Ohio and neighboring states, including assignments at St. Thomas, Columbus, OH (1955-56); St. Mary, Marietta, OH (1956-61); Holy Spirit, Columbus, OH (1961-62); St. Aloysius, Wilmerding, PA (1962-63); St. Francis, McKees Rocks, PA (1963-64); Bishop Watterson, Columbus, OH (1964-67); Bishop Rosecrans, Zanesville, OH (1967-77); Fisher Catholic, Lancaster, OH (1977-80, 81-86); and St. Mary, New Haven, CT (1980-81). Sr. Teresa returned to Ohio and ministered in pastoral care to the elderly at St. Thomas Parish, Zanesville (1986-2000) and later in volunteer service to the congregation at St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus (2000-07). In her later retirement, she entered a ministry of prayer at Mohun Health Care Center, Columbus, where she lived until her death.

Though Sr. Teresa spent many years teaching English, nursing and caring for others was her passion. Always conscious of people's needs, she worked to be proactive and precise when caring for those around her. As a pastoral minister, Sr. Teresa spent many an hour on the phone with elderly parishioners, educating them on the medications they were recently prescribed and comforting them during times of confusion and uncertainty. She kept the St. Vincent DePaul Society kitchen stocked to the brim with canned and boxed food items for needy families. She made it a point to familiarize herself with the recipients, always knowing exactly what each family needed and enjoyed.

Sr. Teresa was a respected teacher, nurse, and pastoral minister. She will be remembered for her consideration, conscientiousness, compassion, and prayerful demeanor.

The viewing will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2010, at 3pm in the Columbus Motherhouse chapel. Evening Prayer, including a Vigil Service of Remembrance, will begin at 5pm. The funeral liturgy will be on Wednesday, February 10, 2010, at 9am, followed by burial at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

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