

# Death of Sr. Dorthie Anne



Sr. Dorthie Anne Hall passed away on December 16, 2010. Her health had been deteriorating over several months. The Sisters and Father gathered in Sr. Dorthie Anne's room for the Anointing of the Sick the day before her death. Although her breathing was very labored, she was able to participate somewhat in the prayers.

Very early in the morning of the 16th, Paula Baskett, our caregiver, went in to check Sr. Dorthie Anne and inquire how she was doing. Sr. Dorthie Anne replied that she was fine. Just about 20 minutes later when Paula came back, Sister had passed away. The Sisters gathered for a final goodbye and prayers.

Two days of remembrance and blessing for Sr. Dorthie Anne brought poignant memories to the forefront. Several calls from friends and former students, including one from Mehdi in Iran, reminded us that Sr. Dorthie Anne was well-loved. Although none of her family was able to come, Kathy Strobbe, a former community member, her friends, the Murrays, and the Sisters from Independence came to celebrate the life of Sr. Dorthie Anne with us. This was the first wake in the Mother Pia Ministry Center and the first funeral Mass in Our Lady of the Angels Chapel.

Sister Dorthie Anne was born on April 24, 1918, in Stearns, Kentucky, to John and Stella (Clifton) Hall. Although the family struggled economically, Sister credited her success in life to her father's love and determination to secure a good education for his children. She did very well in school and earned the honor of valedictorian. She went on to attend Cumberland College in Kentucky and also Western Kentucky University. After getting her degree, she taught at Federalsburg High School in Maryland and later was an instructor at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO. There she was attracted to the Catholic Church and with the help of the monks of Conception became a Catholic. Very soon after that she answered the call to religious life, professing her vows with the Sisters of St. Francis in 1952.

Areas of ministry for Sr. Dorthie Anne (Marianne) were St. Joseph Academy in Chillicothe, MO, where she was principal and also taught; Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge, IA, where she was a Professor of English, and Donnelly College in Kansas City, KS, where she taught English and Literature from 1978 until 1997.

Sr. Dorthie Anne was an avid reader and a life-long lover of literature and the written word. During her lifetime she was delighted to have several selections of her poetry and various newspaper articles published. In her retirement, she enjoyed writing critiques for news editor and reporter friends. She loved to work crossword puzzles and to quote favorite sayings, and for many years composed individualized poems for special occasions of her fellow Sisters, the co-workers and friends.

During the last months of her life, Sr. Dorthie Anne became more and more quiet and spent more and more time in Chapel. She seemed to be reflecting on her many years of life and she more often expressed her gratitude for all she had received. Her favorite quote is a reminder to us that a deep faith on God was the foundation of her life: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him may not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16