



News Release

Obituary Notice

October 24, 2007

Benedictine Sister Mary Juliana Bresson Dies

CLYDE, Mo. - Sister Mary Juliana Bresson, OSB, 102, died Oct. 17, 2007, at Our Lady of Rickenbach Healthcare Center in Clyde, Mo.

She was born Alice Callista Bresson on Dec. 9, 1904, in Akron, Ohio to Joseph and Lucy Ellen (Guenther) Bresson. Sister Juliana attended school in Glenmont, Ohio and later received a degree in business and library science from the University of Utah.

Her first experience with the Benedictine Sisters was through their magazine, "Spirit&Life" (*formerly "Tabernacle and Purgatory"*), which her mother had subscribed to for years.

"Ever since I knew about the Sisters, I wanted to be one," Sister Juliana recalled. After a trip to Clyde in 1920, she decided to enter before she had turned 16.

"The Sisters hardly knew what to do with me," she said. "They thought I was just a child, so they sent me over to our Academy."

She made her first profession on Feb. 10, 1923, and took her perpetual vows on March 10, 1928. During her years with the Benedictine Sisters, she served as librarian and in retirement continued to help in the library. Additionally, she worked in the sacristy, correspondence department, and as a dental assistant and a portress.

However, it was her work in the printery that truly inspired Sister Juliana. She was very aware of the Sisters' ministry through the printed word. She mastered various tasks and worked to improve the manner in which each was performed, advancing as machinery changed over the decades.

In her last years, Sister Juliana gained fame because of her longevity, not only passing the centennial mark, but doing so with a good degree of health, mental astuteness and interests. She loved to walk on the convent grounds and did so up until the last year of her life.

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Sr. Mary Juliana Bresson

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“It didn’t matter how hot or cold it was outside, I walked a mile and a half nearly every day as I prayed my rosary,” she once said. When she was no longer able to walk distances, she learned to drive an electric scooter, which she drove from the Sisters’ healthcare facility to the main monastery to work in the library.

Devoted to praying the rosary, Sister Juliana made hundreds of rosaries for missions and those that were sold in monastery gift shops. Link by link and bead by bead, she extended her life of prayer by fashioning the rosaries with her loving hands.

Sister Juliana was inspiring, gracious, practical, wise, interested, caring, gentle, self-sacrificing, loved and respected by all. She, with her love for the Lord and fidelity to monastic life and adoration, is now part of the rich patrimony of the Benedictine Sisters.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Philip, Adrian and Father Charles Bresson, OSB; and a sister, Sister Mary Eucharia Bresson, OSF. Survivors include her monastic family and several cousins.

Mass of Christian Burial took place on Oct. 22 in the Adoration Chapel at Clyde. Burial is in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Clyde. Memorials can be sent in care of Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, 31970 State Highway P, Clyde, Mo. 64432-8100.

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