



CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

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News Release

Sept. 8, 2010

Benedictine Sister Mary Irmina Blatt Passes

CLYDE, Mo. – Benedictine Sister of Perpetual Adoration Mary Irmina Blatt, OSB passed peacefully on Sept. 5, 2010, at Our Lady of Rickenbach healthcare facility in Clyde.

She was born Cecilia Mary Blatt on May 7, 1907, to Nicholas and Anna (Malget) in Granville, Iowa. She was the ninth of 11 children and the youngest girl. She had seven sisters, three brothers and grew up on a farm. She attended the parish school in Granville for nine years, taught by the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Family.

She enjoyed playing baseball and took up crocheting and knitting for hobbies. After finishing school, she lived on the farm and helped with farm work, housework and did occasional babysitting.

Cecilia was the first in the family to enter religious life. She read in a missal that it was vital to “save your soul,” so from her early school days she had a desire to become a sister. She learned about the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration through “Tabernacle and Purgatory,” the Sisters’ magazine.

“I knew I didn’t want to teach, and the idea of a life of prayer centered on adoration of the Eucharist attracted me,” she recalled.

Cecilia entered on March 23, 1927 at 19 years of age. Her sister, Philomena, entered at Clyde six months after Cecilia and became Sister Mary Adela. Another sister became Sister Rose of St. Francis of the Holy Family in Dubuque, Iowa.

Cecilia was a postulant for six months and then a novice for one year. She made First Vows on March 16, 1929, and received the name Sister Mary Irmina. She made Perpetual Vows on April 18, 1934.

Sister Irmina lived in Clyde until 1953. She worked in the kitchen for the first 12 years, and at that time they fed between 250 and 300 people each meal. Meals were prepared for the Sisters, academy students, guests, workmen, infirmary patients and the chaplain. Each group was served separately, and sometimes the menu was different too. There were usually five or six Sisters or novices working together.

<MORE>



Sister Irmina

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She also worked in the chicken house and bakery. During World War II, it became difficult to get enough help for outdoor work. So she was assigned to work in the orchard and on the farm, milking cows for 13 years. In 1953, she went to the Sisters' Kansas City, Mo., monastery and worked in the kitchen and the altar bread department. She also lived at communities in San Diego and Mundelein, Ill., where she continued to work in the kitchen and altar bread department.

Sister Irmina moved to the St. Louis monastery in 1978 and worked in the kitchen, refectory and sacristy. It was there that she really began her craftwork. She started with mobiles learned from her sister, Sister Rose, and then moved on to crocheting baptismal stoles and producing other items such as refrigerator magnets and candy containers. As she worked on her crafts, Sister Irmina would often listen to the St. Louis Cardinals' baseball games.

In 2001, she moved to Clyde and in 2003 became a member of Our Lady of Rickenbach community. In 2004, Sister Irmina wrote, "I am grateful that God called me to our Congregation and am grateful for daily Eucharist. I am grateful for the excellent superiors I have had and I love the novices and junior sisters as they bring new life to our Congregation."

Sister Irmina was physically able and mentally sharp until the last few years of her life. In August 2010, she was hospitalized and diagnosed with chronic leukemia. After returning home from the hospital, she continued to decline and passed on Founder's Day. She died at the age of 103 years and 121 days - the record for longevity in the Congregation.

Sister Irmina is survived by her monastic community and extended family of nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by all of her siblings. A Mass of Christian Burial took place Sept. 8 in Clyde. Memorials can be sent in care of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, 31970 State Highway P, Clyde, Mo. 64432-8100.

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