



St. Anne Province Center
Melbourne, Kentucky
November 16, 2020

SISTER MARY THEODORE NOLAN

was called into eternal life.

Born December 31, 1930 in Covington, Kentucky, Sr. Mary Theodore Nolan entered eternal life on November 14, 2020 at Holy Family Home. She was eighty-nine years old and a professed member of the Congregation of Divine Providence for seventy-three years.

Nonna Irma was the second of three children born to Howard and Irma Nolan. She is preceded in death by her brother James and her sister Patricia and their spouses. She is survived by her nieces and nephews.

In her reflections for her Golden Jubilee, Sr. Mary Theodore noted that, even as a child, prayer was important to her and it was through prayer that she realized she had a vocation to religious life. She became acquainted with the Sisters of Divine Providence when she attended St. Thomas School in Fort Thomas, Kentucky. Sister was especially influenced by her parents who instilled in her a deep faith and by Sr. Mary Bernard Stegman who taught her that she could do whatever she set her mind and soul to do. With a desire to follow God's will and to help juvenile delinquents, Sr. Mary Theodore entered St. Anne Convent on September 8, 1944. She made her first profession of vows on August 29, 1947 and final vows on August 29, 1952.

After her first profession of vows, Sr. Mary Theodore was missioned to St. Vincent de Paul Infant Asylum in Providence, Rhode Island from 1947 to 1953. She thoroughly enjoyed taking care of little boys from two to six years old. When she returned to Kentucky in 1953, she served as housekeeper and cook at Mt. St. Martin in Newport for ten years. Next Sister worked in the dining room at St. Charles Seminary in Catonsville, Maryland from 1963 to 1964. She returned to St. Vincent de Paul Infant Asylum to care for babies between six months and two years old from 1964 to 1968. During the following years, Sr. Mary Theodore excelled in the position of executive housekeeper: Our Lady of the Way Hospital in Martin, Kentucky from 1968 to 1973; Jeanne d'Arc Residence in New York City, New York from 1973 to 1977; and St. Anne Convent in Melbourne, Kentucky from 1977 to 1985. She also managed the convent laundry. While Sister was in Melbourne, she volunteered to be the CCD coordinator at St. Philip Parish from 1980 to 1985. Sister then continued in community service at *Instituto della Divina Provvidenza* in Rome, Italy until 1987 when she returned to her former positions at St. Anne Convent and St. Philip Parish. In 2000 Sr. Mary Theodore enjoyed a sabbatical year at *Berakah* in Pittsfield, New Hampshire. Ready for a change of pace, Sister served in pastoral ministry at St. John Parish in Carrollton, Kentucky until her retirement to Holy Family Home in 2013.

A woman of hope, prayer, and a deep spirituality, Sr. Mary Theodore experienced a strong sense of Providence throughout her life. "If I live in Hope, I'll never die of despair" was her motto. This positive attitude led her to many achievements that she had never dreamed of

accomplishing: obtaining her GED, becoming a certified Executive Housekeeper, being a member of the International Executive Housekeepers Association, Inc., serving as president of the New York and Cincinnati Chapters, and being Governor of the Central International District for two terms.

Sr. Mary Theodore had many endearing qualities. She was notably persevering, simple, faith-filled, and honest. Sister was a delightful person who was a great support in community and a hard worker who readily used her expertise to help others wherever needed. Sr. Mary Theodore was deeply rooted in her vocation, involved with life, and very good to the less fortunate. She was dedicated, generous, a faithful friend, and a lover of animals.

Grateful for God's tender care of her, Sr. Mary Theodore realized that she had received the promised hundred fold here on earth - even more than her share. She never wanted for anything except to love God and to follow the Divine Will.

In thanksgiving for our dear Sr. Mary Theodore and for her witness as a loving, joyful woman of Providence and as a woman of prayer, compassion, and loving service throughout her religious life, let us entrust her to the care of our Provident God.

United in God's gracious Providence,

Sister Barbara Patrick, CDP for
Sister Barbara Rohe, CDP, Provincial

Due to the coronavirus, there will be no wake or visitation. The Mass and burial will be private. At a later date, there will be a memorial celebration of Sr. Mary Theodore's life.

Mass of Christian Burial: Wednesday, November 18, 2020
Immaculate Conception Chapel, Melbourne

Burial in the Convent Cemetery, Melbourne, Kentucky