



St. Anne Province Center
Melbourne, Kentucky
August 31, 2021

SISTER MARY BERTHA BERLING
was called into eternal life.

Born August 10, 1926 in Covington, Kentucky, Sr. Mary Bertha Berling entered eternal life on August 30, 2021 at Holy Family Home. She was ninety-five years old and a professed member of the Congregation of Divine Providence for seventy-seven years.

Alma Elizabeth was the second of nine children born to Fred and Bertha Berling. She is preceded in death by her brothers Fred, Paul, and Bob and her sisters LaVern Groeschel and Ruth Reeves. She is survived by her brother Jim, her sisters Mary Scheitz and Marge Mader, and nieces and nephews.

Sr. Mary Bertha began her primary education at St. Augustine School in Covington. Then, for five years, she studied with the Sisters of Divine Providence at St. Vincent de Paul School in Newport. Sister joined a small group of girls who enjoyed hanging around these gentle, friendly women religious at the end of the school day. As the girls helped the sisters with their chores, they chatted and questioned about many things. One day "God's call" came up. Sr. Mary Bertha's quick response was "not me, Sister!" However, the idea hung around her like a cloud. She prayed to God, "...not me, please!" Each day after Communion, she prayed over this call until one morning a bright light seemed to break through the heavy cloud. Sister felt that God had touched her and a new sense of peace filled her heart. She knew that God wanted her and so on July 7, 1940 she entered St. Anne Convent. She made her first profession of vows on August 29, 1944 and final vows on August 29, 1949.

Sr. Mary Bertha had many varied ministries. Her first was as an elementary school teacher. Her preparation included an A.B. degree from Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More University) and an M.Ed. from Xavier University with a certificate in administration and supervision.

For twenty years Sr. Mary Bertha devoted herself to the education of children. She taught all grades, sometimes four at once in large, small, urban, rural, and mountain areas. Sister was at St. Bernard School in Dayton from 1945 to 1948 and Corpus Christi School in Newport from 1948 to 1950. Her only out-of-state school was Our Lady of Sorrows School in Takoma Park, Maryland from 1950 to 1952. Sister continued teaching in Kentucky until 1965: Holy Family School in Ashland, St. Cecilia School in Independence, St. Leo School in Versailles, and St. Francis School in Pikeville. She also served as the principal at these last two schools. With a wealth of knowledge and experience, Sr. Mary Bertha advanced to her next ministry: education consultant for the Diocese of Covington from 1965 to 1968. With the other consultants she

