



St. Anne Province Center
Melbourne, Kentucky
March 29, 2022

SISTER MARY THOMAS HARVEY
was called into eternal life.

Born January 18, 1935 in Kilkee, County Clare, Ireland, Sr. Mary Thomas Harvey entered eternal life on March 29, 2022 at Holy Family Home. She was eighty-seven years old and a professed member of the Congregation of Divine Providence for sixty-seven years.

Mary Philomena was the third of five children born to Thomas and Mary Harvey. She is preceded in death by her brothers Gerald and Michael. She is survived by her brothers Thomas and Patrick Joseph and nieces and nephews.

Sr. Mary Thomas began her formal education in Ireland. She attended Corbally National School and Bansha National School. She had one year of high school at the Convent of Mercy in Kilkee. Sister became acquainted with the Sisters of Divine Providence through Sr. Mary Patrick Downes, who was visiting her family in Ireland. Since their families lived in the same neighborhood, the two sisters had the opportunity to meet often. In one of their conversations, Sr. Mary Thomas mentioned that she wanted to be a missionary and had a longing to do something special with her life. Sr. Mary Patrick assured her that there was an abundance of mission work in the fields of Kentucky. With this invitation, Sr. Mary Thomas entered St. Anne Convent on October 18, 1950. She made her first profession of vows on August 29, 1954 and final vows on August 29, 1959.

Sr. Mary Thomas wanted to be a teacher; she loved the teaching profession. The classroom became her mission land and teaching children of God's unconditional love became her mission. Her preparation for this ministry included an A.B. degree from Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More University) and an M.Ed. from Xavier University. Sr. Mary Patrick and Sr. Rita Marie Mancini were important mentors who helped her as a beginning teacher. In her ministry Sr. Mary Thomas had a motto: the greatest thing I can do for parents is help them with their children.

After her first profession of vows, Sr. Mary Thomas taught mainly in the primary grades. All of Sister's places of ministry were in Kentucky. In her early years she taught at Christ the King School, Lexington from 1954 to 1959; St. Bernard School, Dayton from 1959 to 1960; and St. Patrick School, Mt. Sterling in 1960. She returned to St. Bernard School from 1960 to 1966 and then went to St. Thomas School in Fort Thomas from 1966 to 1969. Sr. Mary Thomas taught, again, at Christ the King School from 1969 to 1973. She was at St. Cecilia School in Independence from 1973 to 80. Sister returned to St. Thomas School, where she served as the principal from 1980 to 1987. She resumed teaching and, for the third time, went to St. Bernard

School from 1987 to 1996. Then Sr. Mary Thomas enjoyed a well-deserved, graced sabbatical year at St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinard, Indiana. Refreshed in spirit, Sister became the head teacher at St. Joseph School, Camp Springs for a year before she completed her formal teaching career at St. Mark School in Richmond from 1998 to 2011. From there she moved to Holy Family Home and continued her life of faithful service in the community.

Sr. Mary Thomas was an excellent teacher who kept abreast of the times, took initiative, and was well-organized and thorough. She related well with children, parents, and staff and was highly respected and loved by all who knew her. Sister was an enthusiastic asset both on faculties and in communities. Full of creative ideas, she readily shared her many artistic abilities, which included writing plays for the sisters to perform.

Sr. Mary Thomas was a pleasant, happy woman who was prayerful, faithful, generous and a good listener. Blessed with a rich sense of humor, she will be remembered as a person who was upbeat, witty, and lots of fun and who loved to dance, especially the Irish jig.

In her reflections, Sr. Mary Thomas shared that the greatest aspect of faith in her life had been prayer. She received inspirations and aspirations through the power of the Spirit. With deep gratitude, Sister realized that God had blessed her with many opportunities to be part of so many lives of women and children. She was also grateful for the blessing of recognizing her own womanhood and being able to appreciate every aspect of her being. This was how she experienced Providence as a sister of Divine Providence.

In thanksgiving for our dear Sr. Mary Thomas 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

Mass of Christian Burial: Friday, April 1, 2022 at 4:00 P.M.
 Immaculate Conception Chapel, Melbourne

Burial in the Convent Cemetery, Melbourne, Kentucky