



St. Anne Province Center
Melbourne, Kentucky
April 8, 2022

SISTER RUTH MARIE FLYNN
was called into eternal life.

Born June 12, 1932 in Fort Thomas, Kentucky, Sr. Ruth Marie Flynn entered eternal life on April 6, 2022 at Holy Family Home. She was eighty-nine years old and a professed member of the Congregation of Divine Providence for sixteen years when she left religious life. After re-entering the community, she continued as a professed member for thirty-six more years.

Ruth Marie was the fourth of eight children born to William and Gladys Flynn. She is preceded in death by all of her siblings: step-brother Albert Rawe; brothers Jack and Bill; and sisters Mary Lou Tholmeier, Audrey Mullen, Blanche Rawe, and Barbara Cowie. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Sr. Ruth Marie met the Sisters of Divine Providence when she attended St. Thomas Elementary School in Fort Thomas for the first five grades. She completed grade school at Immaculate Conception in Newport and graduated from LaSalette Academy in Covington. Influenced by the deep faith of her family, the Irish community at Immaculate Conception parish, and her teacher Sr. Mary Paul, SC, and many CDPs, Sr. Ruth Marie responded to the love of God and entered St. Anne Convent on September 19, 1951. She made her first profession of vows on August 29, 1954 and final vows on August 29, 1959. After Sr. Ruth Marie's second entrance on August 30, 1984, she made vows on September 15, 1985 and final vows on January 6, 1991.

Sr. Ruth Marie had many varied ministries which prompted her to participate in certificate programs and seminars. She completed the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program at the Athenaeum of Ohio and the Clinical Pastoral Education C.P.E. at Bethesda North Hospital in Cincinnati. Sister took courses in medical record management, hospital accounting and financial management, professional standards review, and management development among many others.

After her first profession of vows, Sr. Ruth Marie worked as the office manager at Our Lady of the Way Hospital in Martin, Kentucky from 1954 to 1965. Then, until 1969, Sister served as the assistant administrator. She carried out many responsibilities; was very professional, ethical, and organized; and personally cared about each person on the staff.

Following a decision to leave religious life, she took the position of administrator at Grant Memorial Hospital in Williamstown, Kentucky. During the following years she made a directed retreat, became a member of the CDP associate program, and continued her spiritual and emotional growth through involvement in Church related activities and various programs and retreats. She was very active in her parish and successfully organized and administered the RCIA program, Small Christian Communities, and Family Hospitality Ministry. Eventually, she felt drawn to, once again, live a vowed life in community. After a period of discernment, Sr. Ruth Marie re-entered St. Anne Convent in 1984.

Sr. Ruth Marie's first assignment after her second profession was administrator of Holy Family Home in Melbourne from 1985 to 1998. After a brief period as pastoral associate at St. Michael Parish in Burnsville, West Virginia, Sister continued as pastoral associate at St. Nicholas Parish in Zanesville, Ohio from 1999 to 2006. She enjoyed a sabbatical year in the novitiate community and then participated in community service at St. Anne Convent. In 2010 Sr. Ruth Marie moved to Holy Family Home. She ministered in community service there and at St. Thomas Parish, Fort Thomas in the RCIA program until 2015. Due to failing health, in 2017 Sister moved to the health care center and devoted herself to the ministry of prayer and suffering.

A woman of prayer, Sr. Ruth Marie delighted in going to charismatic prayer groups. She participated enthusiastically at Mass and had a deep appreciation for the Eucharist. Both in community and in ministry, Sister exhibited a welcoming, cheerful manner as she endeavored to love everyone. She was kind and helpful and expressed a genuine concern and interest for others. Sr. Ruth Marie had a beautiful, ready smile and wonderful sense of humor.

It was the love of God that impelled Sr. Ruth Marie to enter consecrated religious life. Sharing her faith life throughout the years was very close to her heart. She once stated that she loved the Church even though she didn't always agree with some things. However, being a sister of Divine Providence called her to trust that God provides. Sister was grateful for the way that God had touched her in every phase of her life and especially with regard to the people she met along the way.

In thanksgiving for our dear Sr. Ruth 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: Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.
 Immaculate Conception Chapel, Melbourne

Burial in the Convent Cemetery, Melbourne, Kentucky