



St. Anne Province Center
Melbourne, Kentucky
August 1, 2023

SISTER JOAN MARIE BOBERG
was called into eternal life.

Born October 1, 1932 in Covington, Kentucky, Sr. Joan Marie Boberg entered eternal life on July 29, 2023 at Holy Family Home. She was ninety years old and a professed member of the Congregation of Divine Providence for seventy-one years.

Joan Marie was the second of thirteen children born to John and Mildred Boberg. She is preceded in death by her brothers Ken, Nick, Dan, Rick, and Steve and her sisters Claire, LaVerne Schute, Rose Welscher, and Diane Beck. She is survived by her brother Jack and her sisters Pam Wagner and Lynn Mowery and nieces and nephews.

Sr. Joan Marie attended elementary school in Covington at St. Benedict, St. Augustine, and Holy Cross. She became acquainted with the Sisters of Divine Providence in her junior high years at St. Bernard School in Dayton and then at Our Lady of Providence Academy in Newport. As a teenager, Sr. Joan Marie had been questioning what her life was all about. In her search for meaning, it seemed to her that religious life offered the “something more” that she sought. She was also interested in the opportunities for service that religious life offered. Sister gave it serious consideration when Sr. Josephine Mary Martineau asked her if she had ever thought of religious life. Uncertain about the future, Sr. Joan Marie responded to this inner call that kept summoning her and entered St. Anne Convent on May 30, 1948. She made her first profession of vows on August 29, 1951 and final vows on August 29, 1956.

After her first profession of vows, Sr. Joan Marie spent the next several years both teaching and studying. She obtained her A.B. degree from Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More University) and her M.Ed. from Xavier University in Cincinnati. Her first teaching assignment was at Christ the King School in Lexington, Kentucky from 1951 to 1965. She served as teacher and principal at St. Francis School in Pikeville, Kentucky from 1965 to 1966 and at Corpus Christi School in Newport from 1966 to 1969.

In the next phase of her religious life, Sr. Joan Marie was called to community service in the Congregation of Divine Providence. In 1969 she accepted the appointment to be the first full time director of the junior sisters. She was also named the local coordinator of the large St. Anne community. During the Provincial Chapter of 1973, Sister was elected Vicar-Councilor for six years. Then in 1979 Sr. Joan Marie was elected Provincial Superior for a five-year term. These years were marked by the special grace of deepened relationships with the sisters as well as the

challenge of facing the diminishing number of sisters and the inability to continue staffing and maintaining all the institutions. Sr. Joan Marie led the Province through the process of “letting go.”

After a much needed, wonderful sabbatical in Notre Dame, Indiana from 1984 to 1985, Sr. Joan Marie accepted the position of director of Catholic Social Services. For the next twenty years, she led various agencies to find ways to reach out to the poor in the community. She brought to the ministry of service a very deep spirituality and commitment to Divine Providence.

In 2005 Sr. Joan Marie returned to community service and was named the Director of Ministry Advancement and Effectiveness. Until 2011, Sister assisted the administrators to integrate their ministries with the spirit and charism of the Congregation. For the next couple of years, she volunteered in a variety of services. In 2013 she became the Director of Pastoral Care at the Health Care Center in Holy Family Home in Melbourne and continued with her volunteering. Due to health reasons, Sr. Joan Marie resigned this position and devoted herself to her ministry of prayer and suffering.

In all her ministerial positions, Sr. Joan Marie was enthusiastic, efficient, organized, thorough, and energetic. She was also caring, compassionate, gentle, and sensitive to the needs of others. She was a woman of deep faith who gave priority to the deepening of her spiritual life. She was faithful to her own prayer and enabled others to value their own prayer.

Her life gives testimony that Sr. Joan Marie did find that “something more” and opportunities for service that she sought as a youth. In her reflections she wrote that many things speak to her of God and God’s goodness. However, experiencing the innate goodness and infinite differences she found in so many people always spoke most strongly to her of God.

In thanksgiving for our dear Sr. Joan Marie 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: Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.
Mother of God Church, Covington

Burial in the Convent Cemetery, Melbourne, Kentucky