



St. Anne Province Center
Melbourne, Kentucky
December 16, 2025

SISTER MARY THERESA BOWMAN
was called into eternal life.

Born March 7, 1939 in Covington, Kentucky, Sr. Mary Theresa Bowman entered eternal life on December 14, 2025 at Holy Family Home. She was eighty-six years old and a professed member of the Congregation of Divine Providence for sixty-eight years.

Joyce Ann was the oldest of Carl and Mary Catherine Bowman's nine children. She is preceded in death by her brothers Carl and Joseph and her sister Mary Carol Bishop. She is survived by her brothers Tom and Denny, her sisters Teresa, Rose Bowman-Jones, and Mary Courtney, and nieces and nephews.

Sr. Mary Theresa attended St. Mary School in Covington for three years before she became acquainted with the Sisters of Divine Providence at St. Ann School in West Covington where she completed her elementary education. When she was seven years old, she told her teacher that she was going to be a sister someday. She had been going to church regularly with her mother and began to pray that God would let her be a sister. When she was eleven, her parents gave her the book, Story of a Soul, and then she was sure she had a vocation. When she was fourteen, she told her parents that she was ready to enter the convent like St. Therese did. They said that she was too young. However, Sister was relentless in expressing her need and desire to enter the CDPs in Melbourne, Kentucky. Finally, they had to give in even though the pastor said she was making a mistake. With the encouragement of Sr. Rose Agnes Bruegger, Sr. Mary Theresa entered St. Anne Convent on January 6, 1954. She made her first profession of vows on August 29, 1957 and final vows on August 29, 1962.

Sr. Mary Theresa devoted herself to a variety of ministries. Her professional preparation included an A.B. degree in education from Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More University). She received a certificate in Spirituality from St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, and a certificate in Pastoral Studies from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois. She also completed studies in language and culture for mission in Ghana.

After her first profession of vows, Sr. Mary Theresa taught in several elementary schools: Christ the King School in Lexington, Kentucky from 1957 to 1961; St. Bartholomew School in Bethesda, Maryland from 1961 to 1968; St. Leo School in Versailles, Kentucky from 1968 to 1970; and St. Thomas Elementary in Fort Thomas, Kentucky from 1970 to 1973.

Although Sr. Mary Theresa loved teaching, was an excellent primary teacher, and thought she would dedicate her life to this ministry, Providence had other plans for her. In 1973, she was asked to be involved in Formation Ministry, directing the junior sisters. She held this position until 1980. From 1981 to 1983 Sister served as director of religious education at St. Francis

Xavier Church in Falmouth, Kentucky and, from 1983 to 1984 at St. Pius X Church in Edgewood, Kentucky. For the next ten years, Sr. Mary Theresa served the Congregation, specifically the American Province, as the Provincial Superior. Some of the challenges and events that came under her leadership were: the Centennial Year of the American Province, the bi-centennial celebration of the death of Jean Martin Moye, the sending of the first sisters to the new mission in Ghana, and the beginning of the Office of Development.

At the completion of her term in office, Sr. Mary Theresa prepared for her missioning to Ghana. From 1996 to 2005, she served as the director of the St. Joseph Retreat Center in Sunyani, Ghana. After a well-deserved sabbatical, Sister dedicated herself to the poor of the mountains of Kentucky. She ministered as pastoral associate in St. Paul Parish in McKee from 2006 to 2009 and in St. Clare Parish in Berea from 2008 to 2010. Sr. Mary Theresa completed her years of active ministry at the Jeanne d'Arc Residence in New York City. She was the director of spiritual and social activities from 2010 to 2021. She retired to Holy Family Home and served in the community until 2023 when she engaged in the ministry of suffering and prayer in the Health Care Center.

Sr. Mary Theresa faithfully and intensely lived Providence spirituality and modeled it for others. She was profoundly spiritual and seriously contemplated Gospel values, especially mercy and compassion, as she continually discerned God's Will throughout her life. She mentored many sisters who appreciated her questioning and challenging them to delve more deeply into the Mystery of God Providence. She was simple, humble, and sincere and readily drew inspiration from the searching and yearning of others. In all her interactions, Sister was respectful, kind, thoughtful, and sensitive.

In her reflections, Sr. Mary Theresa noted that one of her favorite songs was "Sing God a Simple Song" and especially the line "for God is the simplest of all." For her it was an ongoing call to "let go" of complexities, questions, etc. and to grow into the simplicity of God – into oneness with God. She prayed for this grace and believed that this simplicity would bring her to the Joy that comes in giving all.

In thanksgiving for our dear Sr. Mary Theresa 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

Wake Service and Mass of Christian Burial: Saturday, December 20, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.
Immaculate Conception Chapel, Melbourne

Burial in the Convent Cemetery, Melbourne, Kentucky