

REMEMBERING SISTER LOUISE DALY, IHM
Nov. 7, 1919 - March 24, 2011



As we come together in prayer and take this time to remember our Sister Mary Samuel, Louise Daly, it is appropriate that we consider her life in the context of the Emmaus story because of the extraordinary experiences of her early family life.

Our human life experiences often give us reason to identify with the hopelessness of two disciples as they journeyed on the road to Emmaus, following the death of Jesus. Their hopes in the Redeemer had been dashed on Friday. As they traveled, they shared their feelings of despair and sadness with the “stranger” they met on the way. Jesus then recounted the history of Israel and how His death made sense. At that encounter when had no hope, God gave

them hope. So it is in our lives, at every turn in the road, we learn that God’s love is enduring, ever-present each moment. Clearly, this was Louise Loretta Daly’s pervading experience from her earliest years.

Patrick Joseph Daly and Beulah Sanders, a convert to Catholicism, were married in St. John Church in Jackson, Mich., and settled there to raise their family. They were blessed with three boys, John, Bob and Tom, and then three girls, Ruth, Louise and Bernadine. Life-altering sorrow came very early to this young family. Mr. Daly, a railroad engineer, contracted tuberculosis and died in his 30th year of life. Louise was just 3 years old. Shortly after, their good mother Beulah was confined to Herman Keiffer Hospital in Detroit, suffering from tuberculosis. Initially the children went to live with their maternal grandparents on their farm in Burlington, Mich. Concern for the children’s Catholic education resulted in their separation. In 1928 John and Bob went to Fr. Baker’s orphanage near Lackawana, N.Y. Tom was moved to St. Francis Home in Detroit. The three girls were accepted in St. Vincent Orphanage in Detroit, where they received their early education. Louise attended St. Charles School, completing three years of high school. On June 26, 1938, she entered our IHM congregation and secured her

required credits under the apt tutelage of Sister Francesca. She pronounced her final vows in January 1944. Her older sister, Ruth, entered our community in 1940.

It was clear from her earliest years that Sister Mary Samuel loved learning and found great joy in teaching children. She spent her first 20 years of ministry as a very successful teacher at every elementary school level. Her presence in the classroom was marked by a firm but kind manner that instilled in each child a great desire to learn. She made a lasting impression on her students, many of whom remained in contact with her these many years. Louise was an artful storyteller, so our evening recreation time was often filled with her humorous recounting of classroom memorable moments! Sister Mary Samuel was one of our four sisters who opened a new mission in Deland, Fla. She returned to Michigan and taught until 1967.

Having secured her Master of Science degree in librarianship from Marywood College in Scranton in 1968, Louise served at Marygrove College as a cataloger and directed the establishment of the curriculum laboratories. Louise assisted, also, in organizing the college archives. Thus, these 22 years were a continuation of her professional, strong dedication to helping others learn.

Louise was a beautiful seamstress, an avid reader and a faithful companion in community. Upon her retirement in 1989 she was thrilled to live with her good friend, Sister Patricia Hewitt, in the then-vacated convent at St. Mary, Rockwood. The next 17 years afforded her the opportunity to experience the challenges of a small family lifestyle. Learning to cook was among the new skills she struggled nobly to master by trial and error. Her days in Rockwood were filled with prayer, enjoying classical music, reading, sewing and volunteering. She cherished the enriching travel opportunities of those years.

Following her heart surgery in 2006, Louise moved to our Health Care Center. As she gained strength, daily she spent time with her own sister, Ruth, Ellen Baker, and other residents in our Memory Care unit, comforting them by her peaceful presence. She helped mend clothes and supported all of us, her sisters, with her devoted love and prayer.

Having walked in unwavering faith with Jesus on an uncommon journey, Louise Loretta Daly, IHM, now enjoys the fullness of joy forever in God's eternal family.

Mildred Baker, IHM
March 28, 2011