



Sr. Mary Jo Beckett, OP

Sister Mary Jo, formerly known as Sister Thomas a'Becket in Mt. Pleasant, MI died on May 18. She was 85 years old and a Dominican Sister for 66 years.

Sister Mary Jo received a BA from Aquinas College and an MA in Elementary Education from Central Michigan University.

Sister Mary Jo served as a teacher at St. Michael, Maple Grove; St. Mary Magdalen, Melvindale; St. Joseph the Worker, Beal City; Our Lady, Chesaning; and Sacred Heart, Mt. Pleasant.

Sister Mary Jo next served as DRE and in pastoral ministry at St. Joseph, Saginaw, and Guardian Angels, Manistee.

While in ministry at the latter parish, she suffered an aneurysm in the brain and was rushed to Traverse City for surgery. When she awoke the doctor told her, "Sister, it looks like the Lord has work for you to do yet. Usually, 75% of this kind of surgery patients don't make it." A week later she went to Aquinata to recuperate. Little did she know then that her new ministry was to be to the "special" Sisters at Aquinata and then at Marywood Health Center."

Basic to Sister Mary Jo's works was the ever-pervasive power of prayer. The verse "Rejoice in the Lord always" was frequently on her lips and in her letters. She spread joy. She had a ready smile for anyone she met along the way with a word about Jesus, and a closing reminder to pray the mercy prayer, "My Jesus mercy." Today she truly rejoices in the Lord with whom she walked and talked all of her days.

Sister Mary Jo is survived by her cousins; many friends and members of her Dominican Community.

Sister Mary Jo will repose at Marywood Chapel of the Word, 111 Lakeside Dr NE, with visitation on Thursday, May 23 from 6:00-7:00 pm followed by a Remembering Service at 7:00 pm. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, May 24 at 10:00 am at Marywood Chapel of the Word. Sisters, Family, and Close Friends are invited to join us in person for the Remembering Service and Funeral. Burial will be at Resurrection Cemetery. Memorials in Sister Mary Jo Beckett's name may be made to the Grand Rapids Dominican Sisters.