Mary Theodosia Linus, SHCJ

Educator, Librarian

December 15, 1916 – May 3, 2015

Rosemont, Pennsylvania – Sister Mary Theodosia Linus, who was a Sister of the Holy Child Jesus for 78 years, died of cancer at Holy Child Center, in Rosemont, PA, on Sunday, May 3, 2015. She was 98.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, Sister Theodosia was one of five children – three sons and two daughters – of James and Margaret (Ahern) Linus. From her fun-loving family, Sister “Theo,” a name she was later called, inherited a bright, happy spirit which she carried with her wherever she went.

After graduation from West Catholic High School for Girls in 1934, Sister Theo entered the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. She professed her final vows in 1942 and became well known by her religious name of Mother Mary Theodosia.

Sister Theo’s teaching ministry extended for three decades and in several states. In Pennsylvania, she taught at Holy Child Academy in Drexel Hill (1937; 1939-1945; and 1963-1964); St. Edward’s School in Philadelphia (1937-1939; 1946-1949); Holy Spirit School in Sharon Hill (1945-1946) and Rosemont School of the Holy Child in Rosemont, PA (1964-1969). In New York City, she taught at Our Lady of Lourdes School (1949-1952) and St. Elizabeth’s School (1955-1958) and then taught at St. Veronica’s School in Chicago (1952-1955).

In addition, Sister Theo served in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's remedial reading program from 1958-1963. She was the librarian for nearly two decades at Holy Child Academy in Drexel Hill (1963-1964), St. Leonard's Academy in Philadelphia (1970-1978), and School of the Holy Child in Rye, NY (1979-1989). She also served in Pasadena, CA, and at the Holy Child provincial offices in Drexel Hill, PA.

In 2000, Sister Theo wrote her first icon under the tutelage of Rev. Richard Cannuli, OSA. She continued to take courses at Villanova University so as to write one new icon a year. She also participated in several book and bible groups, and remained closely connected with her devoted and loving family.

On her 98th birthday, Sister Theo commented, “My retirement years have been greatly enriched by the icon experience and by all the people I have met along the way.”

Sister Theo earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees in elementary education from Villanova University in 1947 and 1965, respectively. She received a second master’s degree in library science from Villanova University in 1968.

She is the beloved aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Friends and family are invited to a service of remembrance on Friday, May 8, at 4:00 p.m., and to the Funeral Mass on Saturday, May 9, at 11:00 a.m., at New Sharon Chapel, 1341 Montgomery Avenue, Rosemont, PA. Preceding Mass, friends and family are welcome to visit at 10:00 a.m. Funeral arrangements were handled by Donohue’s Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, 1341 Montgomery Avenue, Rosemont, PA 19010.