

SISTER DORIS ELIZABETH VAN HOUT, CSJ
June 29, 1923 ~ August 5, 2016

“June was bustin’ out all over . . .” on June 29, 1923, the day Doris Elizabeth Van Hout was born to Henry and Bertha (Vogelbachor) Van Hout on a farm near Ortonville, MN. Her father was a farmer of Dutch descent and her mother a homemaker of German descent. The Van Houts had five children: Harold, Doris, Mary Ann, Robert, and Henry. Their father died when Doris was nine years old and their mother moved her young family into Ortonville. Doris attended Ortonville’s elementary and high schools, graduating in June 1941. She was active in sports and dramatics during her high school years.

From early childhood, Doris knew she wanted to be a Sister. Each summer the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet arrived in Ortonville to teach religion classes. Sister Ann Harvey, CSJ taught there each summer and was instrumental in guiding Doris to St. Joseph’s Novitiate in St. Paul. Doris joined the Sisters of St. Joseph on September 8, 1941 and received the habit and the name Sister Henry Anne on March 19, 1942. She pronounced her temporary vows on March 20, 1944 and her final vows on August 15, 1947.

Sister Henry Anne studied at the Diocesan Teachers’ College and at the College of St. Catherine where she received her BA in 1959, majoring in Education and Sociology. She began teaching in the primary grades in St. Paul parish schools: St. Louis, St. Therese and Nativity. She also taught in Bird Island, Crystal, LeSueur and Excelsior where she was named Assistant Principal. In Minneapolis she taught at St. Helena’s where she served as Superior and also taught CCD.

In 1977 Doris taught Religious Education in Brooklyn Center and Osseo. She studied at the Catholic University of America and received her MA in 1972 from the University of Detroit. She also studied at Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, Ohio, Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA and LaSalle Center in Glencoe, MO. Sister Doris had a professional membership in ACRE (Association of Catholic Religious Educators). Some summers she taught religion classes in Renville, Hector and Ortonville, MN and in Fessenden, Bremen and Grafton, ND. In 1979 she enjoyed a trip to the Holy Land.

In 1985 Sister Doris was given permission to go to Spokane, WA to care for her brother Henry’s four children after Henry’s wife had died. Four years later he remarried and Sister Doris returned to St. Paul.

Sister Doris was always a very versatile person. In 1989 she was invited to join the Pastoral Team with Sister Roseanne Fox, CSJ and Sister Denis Neville, CSJ at St.

Olaf parish in Minneapolis. Being a woman of compassion, courage and principle, Doris was always very approachable. Her good humor and comfortable personality won her many friends.

For 19 years Doris brought the love of Christ to the sick, homebound and those living in nursing care facilities. That is one of the great gifts the Church offers: when one can no longer come to Church, the Church must come to them. She and others would bring the Eucharist and join people in prayer.

Sister Doris was very involved in the coordination of the *Downtown Coalition for Grief Support*, helping those who had suffered a loss. She also recruited volunteers to bring residents to Mass at Augustana Nursing Home. Doris said, "The great faith the parishioners have serves them in good times and bad. It is a study in itself to see how each of them meets the challenges of the journey." One parishioner remarked, "Sister Doris is everything to me. She makes the day. I feel like a better person. She sure is something!" In May 2002 Sister Doris received the WCCO *Good Neighbor Award* for her Pastoral Ministry at St. Olaf Parish.

In 2002 Doris moved to Bethany Convent and on December 6, 2011, she joined the first group to move to Carondelet Village.

She is preceded in death by her parents Henry and Bertha and her siblings Harold, Mary Ann, Robert and their spouses. She is survived by her brother Hank (Susan), her sister-in-law, Shirley; nieces and nephews; friends and colleagues; the Sisters of St. Joseph and Consociates and her caregivers at Carondelet Village.

Doris died on August 5, 2016 at Carondelet Village. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on August 11, 2016 in Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights, MN.

May Doris rest in the peace and love of God