

**Sister Mary Lenore McManmon, CSJ**  
**February 7, 1920 ~ August 16, 2016**

Sister Mary Lenore was born on February 7, 1920 to John and Mary Magdalen (Mooney) McManmon. Her four sisters were Marguerite, Helen, Eleanor and Catherine. Her brother was named John. At the time of her birth the family lived in West St. Paul.

Sister Mary Lenore had Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet as teachers when she started school at St. Columba's in St. Paul. She went to Central High School but she never forgot the Sisters. In 1939 she joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and made final vows one day after World War II ended, August 15, 1945.

She spent 33 years teaching, in St. Paul at Cathedral and St. Luke's, in Minneapolis at St. Thomas the Apostle and in Minneota, Minnesota at St. Edward's. After further study she moved from classroom teaching to retreat work and spiritual direction at the Stillwater House of Prayer for ten years.

Sister Mary Lenore's mother died when she was just 1 and ½ years old. Her father married Hermina Reber one year later. Hermina had been her mother's bridesmaid and was sensitive to the solidarity of the family. Hermina legally adopted Marguerite, Helen, and Elizabeth Ann (Sister Mary Lenore).

Sixteen years ago, Sister Mary Lenore wrote an appreciation of her life.

*"Looking back over my 80 years, my childhood and teens were well nurtured by my parents, grandparents, my aunts and uncles and good teachers. I have happy memories of visits to Grandma Mac's and Grandma Reber's, to Aunt Mayme's family farm in Savage, to KC picnics and Miller's (family) cottage on the St. Croix. After a delicious family dinner, we often went for a ride to enjoy the beauty of the countryside and admire the Holstein cows. Sometimes we gathered around the*

*piano to sing. Marguerite and Helen took piano lessons, but inspired by uncle Bill Reber, I took violin.*

*In grade school my favorite teachers were Sisters Anne Victoire, Alice Veronica, and Sarita, so when I moved to our retirement home, I was glad to be able to visit with them. Along with the example of my mother, who often attended daily Mass, and my father who was a help to all in need, these women undoubtedly influenced my choice of religious life.*

*My present good health may be attributed to the fact that, as children, we walked 6 blocks to school and came home for lunch, walked 2 miles to a music lesson, and walked a mile to high school in all kinds of weather. I still walk.*

*Presently I am semi-retired. In recent years I have enjoyed Elderhostels in Glacier, Yellowstone, Rocky Mountain National Parks, in Louisiana, Kentucky, and Washington, D. C. I have spent time in New York and, on three occasions, I have traveled in France as a companion to a Sister friend. I do watercolor painting and lately have found Japanese brush work to be a challenge.”*

*“The Lord is good to me!”*

Mary Lenore was preceded in death by her parents Mary and John, her sisters Marguerite and Catherine, Catherine’s husband James, and her brother John. She is survived by her sisters Helen and Eleanor, her sister-in-law, Lorraine, nieces Peggy Rodewald, Paula Anderson, and Teresa McCorminck, the Sisters of St. Joseph and Consociates and her caregivers at Carondelet Village.

This loving and generous woman, known for her quiet and gentle presence to many, died peacefully at Carondelet Village on August 16, 2016. Mass of Christian burial was celebrated August 20, 2016 in Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel. Burial was Resurrection Cemetery.

*May Mary Lenore rest in God’s love and peace.*