



**Marie Knowles SL (formerly Sister Joseph Marie)
June 9, 1920 — January 15, 2011**

Born in Mobile, Alabama, Marie received her elementary education at St. Joseph Grade School and Bishop Toolen High. She noted that she enjoyed her classmates, her teachers and loved life to the fullest. Her favorite subject was history and attributed this to “one of the best teachers I ever had, Sister Gerald Marie O’Conner SL.”

In her junior years at Bishop Toolen Marie knew God was calling her to be a sister, but she did not want to leave her family. Nevertheless, she entered the novitiate on October 25, 1938.

Missouri and Virginia were the only two states in which Marie lived and worked for 46 years as a teacher, a principal, and a superior.

In Missouri she served in St. Catherine and Immaculate Conception schools in St. Louis; St. Lawrence in Bridgeton, and St Ferdinand in Florissant. She also served as a St. Louis Archdiocesan Supervisor for teachers at the elementary level from 1964 to 1970. Then in 1971 she worked in the St. Louis Catholic School Office as consultant for principals and in the field of social studies.

From 1951 through 1964 Marie was at St. Ann’s in Arlington, Virginia. She began as a teacher, and in 1957 was appointed superior, a responsibility she held through the 1964 school year when the Sisters of Loretto left St. Ann’s.

In 1983 she became the Director of the Resource Center at Nerinx Hall, and continued this service until her retirement in 2000. Marie was the recorder for the Loretto Hunger Fund for ten years from 1997-2007.

She was an enthusiastic Cardinal fan. In her retirement Marie continued to pray for students, teachers, and personnel at schools where she had served. She also prayed "for the Sisters of Loretto and the congregations' leadership, and for priests especially those who had served, had been misjudged, and who had troubled pathways."

A quote from Marie's autobiography —

"I discovered more about myself and in my searching I think I found more of God in my life. I found a Friend who could love me regardless of my faults and One who would not cause me pain. Prayer has always been a big part of my life and I found comfort in prayer. Pain sometimes brings growth and I hope that this was true of me."

God bless you, Marie!