

After Profession, Sister taught first at Immaculate Conception Academy in Cincinnati, Ohio, and then at Saint Pius V School on Long Island. She primarily taught grades three and four, and also gave computer classes to the high school and trained the altar boys. Sister had a great love of children. Her students loved her in return and especially enjoyed her creative stories and enthusiasm. Sister was able to transfer to them her genuine interest in academic subjects, as well as her love for the Catholic Faith.

Sister's Illness

Sister Mary Cecilia was diagnosed with leukemia in January of 2013. She underwent treatments in New York City and in Texas. In the course of her illness, Sister was blessed to receive the Sacraments from Bishop Santay, Fr. Baumberger, and the priests of the Congregation of St. Pius V. On December 11, Sister was told that her treatments had not worked and that she had only weeks, perhaps days, to live. She accepted this with her characteristic resignation to God's Will, saying to me, "Well, I talked to God about this and I know He's in charge and I'm just along for the ride."

Sister was released from the New York City hospital and asked to see her students at Saint Pius V School before traveling to our Motherhouse. Though her time at the school was limited due to her increasing weakness, Sister was delighted to visit with all the students, and they were delighted to spend time with her.

After her visit with the children, Sister went to our Motherhouse in Round Top. During the next two weeks, although her health steadily declined, she was able to receive Holy Communion daily and visit with her



family and each of the Sisters. Bishop Kelly also spent time with her, encouraging and uplifting her with thoughts about Heaven. It was a great blessing for all of us since Sister was such an example of patience and cheerfulness.

Sister's Words

I, too, had the opportunity to be with Sister. I was greatly edified by her words. One time she wrote to me, "You gave us a conference in which you told us that it was a compliment when we get crosses. God counts on us to make sacrifices. I try to remember this idea. Now when things happen, I think of God asking me for some help for a soul. How can I say no? But sometimes I do say, 'All right, but I'll need help.'"

At another time we were speaking of death. Pointing to a statue of the Blessed Mother, Sister

