

**“You will reveal the path of life to me and
give me unbounded joy in your presence;
and at your right hand everlasting delight.”**

Psalm 16:11

Sr. Theresa Cecilia Bringazi, CPS

Born
September 03, 1930
St. Louis, Missouri

Born into eternal life
December 25, 2020
Bethlehem, PA



Sr. Theresa Cecilia Bringazi, CPS, was born on September 3, 1930 to Frederick and Theresa (Flynn) Bringazi of St. Louis Missouri, both deceased. Two weeks later, she was baptized, Theresa Cecilia. She was fond of saying: My heritage is St. Louis and I am fully American – like apple pie or the St. Louis Arch. She is survived by one brother Paul and his wife Brenda; and predeceased by a sister, Rita; two half sisters: Mary and Florence, and Frederick, a half brother.

In April of 1950, Sr Theresa Cecilia entered the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood in Princeton, New Jersey. Sister always said her vocation was fostered in the love and faith of her parents. A few months after entering, her mother had a severe stroke and died. Theresa went home to support her Dad and to raise her two younger siblings. Sister was very artistic and creative. Although she studied art while raising her siblings, the call / the dream to be a Missionary Sister never left Theresa. In 1957 when the children were old enough she reentered the Congregation, made her First Profession of Vows on December 8, 1959 and Final Profession in 1962.

Sister’s life journey was filled with many twists and turns and a myriad of detours. Through it all she was imbued with a *generosity for sacrifice, faithfulness to the little things and a cheerful spirit*. Sr. Theresa taught first grade for a few years in Bethlehem, PA – the children loved her and flourished under her care. She then went on to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. She was a Charge Nurse at Holy Family Manor and later the director of Mariawald Renewal Center in Shillington, PA. She was a local superior, a provincial and regional assistant; she helped in the treasurer’s office as a secretary and as the person to go to with whatever was needed. Travel was a joy for Sister and she was the Province driver – always ready to go. Sr. Theresa graciously used her artistic talents to make life a bit more beautiful wherever she was missioned. Sr. Theresa treasured the gifts of friendship that appeared along her path and was always surprised that people were drawn to her.

As her physical decline brought suffering and difficulty in walking, it soon became evident that long-term nursing care was needed. Although the move from her beloved Shillington was painful, Sister adjusted quickly to Holy Family. Soon she found ways to interact and encourage other residents and staff – even though wheelchair bound. She lived with a heart of gratitude and contentment. Sister delighted in visits and calls from the Sisters, family and friends.

Isaiah speaks of a highway that shall be called the holy way and on it the just shall walk. This was Sr Theresa's pathway, and she found her *piece of the cross* in the walking. Her diamond Jubilee was a sign of this.

The Bishop placed in her hand a specially blessed cross and this gesture brought tears of joy and the affirmation that her life was marked with the loving fidelity of God. The cross was indeed her holy way.



Two weeks before Christmas Sr. Theresa tested positive for Covid- 19 and within days was transferred to the Isolation unit. On Christmas Day, the Incarnate Lord beckoned once more and she followed him home. Often Sr. Theresa would say: *'Life sure can take one down many paths, I know mine has. And, at each turn of the road, the Lord was there and faithfully revealed the path and next turn to me. As my years continue I still pray Psalm 16:11 – "You will reveal the path of life to me, and give me unbounded joy in your presence and at your right hand everlasting delight."*

As with so many during this time of pandemic Sr. Theresa Cecilia died alone; she will be laid to rest among her Sisters in community. The Mass and burial will be private. And we know to be true that Sr Theresa – valiant, joyful woman that she was - has found *unbounded joy in the presence of the Lord.*



Missionary Sisters
of the
Precious Blood
North American Province

You have redeemed us, O Lord, in your Blood.