

The Sisters of St. Joseph request your prayers for

SISTER RUTH LUCILE SPERRY, SSJ

Who entered into eternal life
April 28, 2002

Wake Service
Tuesday, April 30, 7:00 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial
Wednesday, May 1, 2:00 p.m.

Services in Holy Family Chapel



Lucile Sperry was born in Bay City, Michigan on November 24, 1907, the daughter of George and Marguerite (McLean) Sperry. She was a member of St. Benedict Parish in Highland Park, Michigan, at the time of her entrance into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth on September 18, 1927. She received the name Sister Ruth at her reception on March 19, 1928 and later added her baptismal name, Lucile. She took temporary vows on August 25, 1930 and final vows on August 25, 1933.

Sister Ruth Lucile earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Nazareth College, and both Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees from the Art Institute of Chicago. She took additional courses at the University of Notre Dame and the University of Detroit. For well over 50 years she devoted her life to art and the ministry of education in the following schools: St. Bernard School, Detroit; Nazareth College Art Department; Luke Powers High School, Flint where she was Director of Art and Drafting. She spent four summers teaching religion and art at St. Catherine's Indian Mission in L'Anse, Michigan in the Upper Peninsula.

Sister Ruth Lucile used her artistic talents in a variety of ways. Her many projects included paintings, ceramics, cards, and in the last years of her life the enormous task of re-painting and repairing the beautiful life size statues displayed each Christmas in the crib scene outside of Nazareth.

Sister Ruth Lucile integrated her spirituality, her artistic ability, and her joy in teaching into a remarkably harmonious whole. She had a gift for enabling students to realize their self-worth and develop their potential. Many of them gratefully kept in touch with her through the years. With a soft smile and sparkle in her eye she said at the time of her jubilee: "They know I have a special love for them. Helping students helps me to be a better, stronger person too." She was grateful also for the support of her family, many friends, and especially her religious community. A favorite prayer was: "Teach me O Lord, to do your will, because you are my God."

May She Rest in Peace!