

SISTER BERTINA MAXWELL, CDP



Sister Bertina Maxwell, age 99, a Sister of Divine Providence, entered eternal life on December 12, 2015. One of four children born to Don and Ida (Sontag) Maxwell, she was given the baptismal name Beverly Pauline. Sister Bertina was born November 8, 1916 in Dell City, Oklahoma. She answered God's call to become a Sister of Divine Providence and professed first vows on June 22, 1937. Sister Bertina began her ministerial life at Providence Academy in Alexandria, Louisiana in 1937.

Beverly Pauline grew up in a close knit family. The siblings' bond continued through their adult life after she and her sister became Sisters Bertina and Ayleson. The four siblings embarked on annual road trips. Between 1975 and 2003, the two CDPs ministered together as catechists in Miami and Duncan, Oklahoma and Noel, Missouri. Sister Bertina's skills kept the parish and CCD offices organized and receptive to its communities. She taught the women of Duncan to make altar linens for their new church. She helped create Busy Bible Books and other arts and crafts that were sold to benefit the respective parishes.

Sister Bertina earned a B.A. in History from Our Lady of the Lake College and a M.A. in Home Economics from Texas Women's University. Her ministry stretched from the elementary classroom to high school history, religion and home economics in Providence Academy in Alexandria, Louisiana and other schools in Fayetteville, Ennis and Providence High School in San Antonio, Texas. She spent ten years as a Dorm Mother to girls, ages 10-18, at St. Joseph's Orphanage in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. While the girls were in class, she took care of her other responsibilities and enjoyed weekday lunch, her only adult time, with her community. She organized the annual Christmas programs and, with her girls, helped care for the younger ones when needed.

She is survived by her brother, Dennis, and all her other Sisters of Divine Providence. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and their families. She was preceded in death by her parents Don and Ida Maxwell, and sisters, Sister Ayleson Maxwell and Rita White.

The Rosary is Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. and the Wake is at 6:30 p.m. A Mass of Resurrection will be Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. All services will be in Annunciation Chapel at Our Lady of the Lake Convent Center.

In lieu of flowers, you may wish to make a memorial contribution to the Sisters of Divine Providence, 515 S.W. 24th Street, San Antonio, TX 78207-4619.