

## **SISTER MARY CONSTANCE “DORIS” CHRISTOPHER, CDP**

Sister Mary Constance “Doris” Christopher, CDP, entered eternal life on May 19, 2016 at the age of 87. She was one of five children born to Edward and Myrtle (McCall) Christopher. Sister Mary Constance was born in San Antonio, Texas on March 27, 1929 and given the baptismal name, Doris Inez. She professed first vows on June 22, 1955.

Her entry into the convent was unlike most in the 1940s-1950s. Sister Constance, a product of the public school system, entered the convent at an older age, 24, after earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Our Lady of the Lake College. She was not a cradle Catholic but upon her father’s urging and a friend’s invitation attended Mass and was involved in the youth activities and religion classes at St. Leo’s Catholic Church. She was baptized when she was 12. She taught in two public schools before teaching at St. Henry’s Catholic School. There she met the Sisters of Divine Providence. Sister Constance wanted and knew she “could be like them” and entered Our Lady of the Lake Convent in 1953.

She taught elementary school for ten years and continued her education toward social work. She earned two Masters: Education and Social Work, and three certifications: Guidance and Counseling, Visiting Teacher, and Supervision. She went among the poor and needy and served as Director of several programs that served this population: Madonna Neighborhood Center and Providence Home, a CDP ministry for children born with AIDS. She served her former neighborhood, Harlandale, as the school district’s visiting teacher, home school coordinator and academic counselor. She also took care of her own by becoming the first Director of Programs for and services to the retired Sisters of McCullough Hall, the congregation’s retirement home. It is apparent that Sister Constance sought to fill the needs of others and followed Father Moye’s advice: do everything for the glory of God and nothing for your own glory. May she rest in peace.

She is survived by her sister Patricia Ann House, and three generations of nieces and nephews, all her other Sisters of Divine Providence. She was preceded in death by her parents Edward and Myrtle Christopher and siblings: Tomas Christopher, Mary Louise Neal and Betty Jean (Sister Hilary) Christopher.

The Rosary is Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 4:00 p.m. and the Wake is at 6:30 p.m. A Mass of Resurrection will be Wednesday, May 25, 9:30 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. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, San Antonio, TX 78207-4619.