

SISTER CECILE CLARE VANDERLICK, CDP



Sister Cecile Clare Vanderlick, CDP, entered eternal life on November 24, 2016 at the age of 86. Bessie Barbara Vanderlick was born April 4, 1930 to Henry J. Vanderlick and Mary Blanche Vermaelen on Bayou Rapides Road in Alexandria, Louisiana. She answered God's call to become a Sister of Divine Providence on September 10, 1949 and professed first vows on June 22, 1952. Sister C.C. began her ministerial life as an elementary teacher at St. Joseph School in Abilene, Texas.

Sister C.C. graduated from Providence Academy in 1946, worked at Wellan's Department Store for three years, and answered God's call to dedicate her life to her God and His people by entering our Lady of the Lake Convent in San Antonio, Texas.

After three years of spiritual formation, she pronounced her religious vows and was sent to Abilene, Texas, to teach in the elementary school. Subsequently, she taught in Ennis, Castroville, and San Antonio, Texas and in Norman, Oklahoma.

In 1965, she was assigned to Alexandria, spending two years at Providence Academy, until it was closed. She moved to Menard Central High School, where she was known for her ability to motivate students to learn chemistry. In 1985 she was named the Outstanding Chemistry Teacher in Louisiana. Affectionately called Sister C.C., she continued teaching and working as Principal or President at Menard for 38 years. In 2005 she felt it was time to move on for health reasons.

Her love of caring for the sick led her to night nursing school in 1977. After earning her R.N. certification in 1979, she worked at Cabrini Hospital for over 17 years on weekends, holidays, and during the summer vacation, simultaneously continuing to teach chemistry. In 2005 she joined the Spiritual Care Department at Cabrini Hospital where she ministered in the Cancer Care Center.

Sister C.C. was very involved in the community. She gave presentations to community groups on end-of-life issues; served as a Cabrini ambassador; worked for the Children's Miracle Network; was involved in breast cancer awareness programs; was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America and the Belgian – American Club.

Sister also served her Congregation by spending three years on the personnel board, being regional coordinator for three years, and working for eight years with aspirants, young girls who were considering a religious vocation.

Health issues caused Sister to leave her beloved Alexandria in 2008 to receive care with her Sisters in San Antonio.

She is survived by her sisters Sister Virginia Lee Vanderlick, Cecilia Mathews (Dick, deceased), and brothers Henry (Sally), Dr. Charles (Helen), David (Dot), numerous nieces, nephews, and their families and her Sisters of Divine Providence. She was preceded in death by her parents Blanche Verrmaelen and Henry Joseph Vanderlick.

The Rosary is Sunday, November 27 at 4:00 p.m., followed by the Wake at 6:30 p.m. A Mass of Resurrection will be Monday, November 28 at 10:30 a.m. All services are in Annunciation Chapel at Our Lady of the Lake Convent.

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.