

Sister Teresa Marie McIntier  
October 25, 1923 – August 23, 2021



Mary Dolores McIntier was born in Los Angeles. She once wrote, “My father, John Ernest, was a blacksmith and later a welder, born in Pawnee, Alliance, Nebraska. My mother, Anna McNeil, was born in Bencodie, Canada. My mother was always home for us children. If not, we could find her at church doing altar linens or praying her many devotions. She and dad had a beautiful relationship. My mother converted him to become a Catholic. So after dinner we always said the rosary after that.”

The oldest child was John Ernest Jr., then Raymond, Mary Dolores and her twin brother Joseph, Paul, who died at age 4 from a car accident and finally Teresa.

Mary Dolores attended St. James School in Redondo Beach where she first met the Sisters of St. Joseph. She then attended nearby St. Mary’s Academy. She credited Sister William and Sister Loretta “for giving me a great appreciation for religious life. Family and parish were very important to me. I entered before finishing high school and never for a moment regretted the decision. The Sisters I knew in grade school also made a tremendous impression on me. When I observed them they were always kind to one another. They possessed a certain mystique that I found attractive. I always enjoyed being around them. I was involved in school and parish activities and would visit the sick with my mother.”

Appreciation and admiration helped Mary Dolores choose to enter religious life on September 15, 1939. She received the habit on March 19, 1940 and was given the religious name Sister Teresa Marie in honor of her younger sister. Sister made her

first vows on March 19, 1943. In 2015, she celebrated her 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee as a woman religious.

After teaching in elementary school for a few years, Sister earned her RN degree in 1950 at St. Mary's Hospital, Tucson Arizona. In 1954 she was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree from the Mount, and in 1970 she completed her Master of Science degree at the University of Arizona.

She ministered in all our hospitals in the Los Angeles Province, serving at various times as OB/Gyn. Supervisor, Nursing Director, ICU nurse, Nursing Instructor, and Hospice Administrator. She also taught in the Nursing Department at Mount St. Mary's College. Sr. Teresa Marie was a pioneer in the field of Hospice and was a colleague of Elizabeth-Kubler-Ross.

In 1980 Sister accepted a position as pastoral associate at St. Jerome Parish in Phoenix and co-authored a three volume set of tapes entitled "Will You Hold My Hand and Let Me Die" to be used by lay parish volunteers to the terminally ill. Sister spent eleven wonderful years in this position. Then she accepted a position with Catholic Social Service in Phoenix, as Specialist in Death Education and Grief Counseling. She developed lifetime friendships in Phoenix with those who had been students, patients, colleagues and anyone who shared her passion for caring for the dying and seriously ill.

Sister achieved national recognition as a Bereavement Minister and teacher. She had a special interest in working with children who were dying and ministering to their parents. Sister said, "A priest in Glendale, Arizona introduced me to the HIV population and I gave several hours a month volunteering with the clients of Malta Center or teaching the caregivers and care partners."

Sister was honored by many for her ministry. Some of the highlights of her ministry were shared in her own words, "I received the Distinguished Award from the Arizona Attorney General for my ministry in the Victim Witness Program and with Parents of Murdered Children. I also received the Governor's Award for 'Women Who Care', the Don Bolles Community Service Memorial Award, the 'Twelve Who Care Hon Kachina' Award and the Volunteer of the Year Award from Catholic Social Services in Phoenix. "

Sister Teresa Marie served as President of the Grief Network Council, and President of the Chapter forum for Death Education and Grief Counseling. Monthly she traveled throughout the country giving seminars on Grief. She was a member of the American Academy of Bereavement under the Carondelet Management Institute, and board member of the Academy.

On June 15, 2015, Sister came to Carondelet Center and joined the Holy Family Community due to failing health. She attended activities as her energy and interest allowed, and visited sister's daily offering prayerful support. She loved to volunteer in the Community Life Office as the person who did all the shredding! In 2020, she was to celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> Jubilee as a Sister of St. Joseph. While the pandemic disrupted the festivities at Carondelet Center in 2020, Teresa relished the memories of 80 years in the community she loved so much. She was able to attend the Archdiocesan celebration in February and lead the entrance procession without assistance. Often Sister could be found in the chapel interceding for the needs of the community and the world.

On July 15, 2021, she was in the first group of sisters who left Carondelet Center to live at St. John of God. Very quickly, Teresa caught the attention of the staff because she was appreciative, gracious and left them with a promise of prayer and her lovely smile. As she settled into St. John of God, she became peaceful, quiet and content. She died peacefully on August 23, 2021. One can only imagine the gathering of former family, friends, and companions that welcomed her home on her final journey.

Written by Sister Frances Baker