



1 Peter 4:8

**“Above all, keep
fervent in your love
for one another,
because love covers
a multitude of sins.”**

Blessings on the Journey

If you would like to share memories and stay connected with the Sisters, we welcome your visits, correspondence and calls. Our doors and our hearts are open to you!

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To honor the memory of Sister Mary Peter and her loving concern for others, a donation can be made to the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart to further our works of neighborly love for those in need.

Thank you for enabling Sister to continue doing good on earth through your generosity.



FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART

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*In Loving
Memory*



*Sister Mary Peter
Gartman, OSF*

1940—2020



**“THEREFORE, I,
A PRISONER OF THE
LORD, BEG YOU TO
LEAD A LIFE WORTHY
OF YOUR CALLING,
FOR YOU HAVE BEEN
CALLED BY GOD....”
(EPHESIANS 4:1)**

Sister Mary Peter

At Rest

November 24, 2020

Sister Mary Peter Gartman was born on September 17, 1940, at St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin, IL, to a young woman named Frances Glosson who named her Theresa. The young mother, knowing that she could not provide sufficiently for this little baby, made the hard decision to give her up for adoption. It was her hope that Theresa would start her new life in a faith-filled family that could both provide for her and love her as their very own. So Theresa was taken to St. Vincent's Home for Children in Freeport, IL, where she was cared for by the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart. They were the mothers she knew until she was adopted by John and Barbara Gartman of Rockford, IL, in 1945. It wasn't long before she became a "daddy's girl" and the Gartman's 8-year-old son, Jack, became her big brother. After her junior year and with her parents' blessing, Theresa followed her heart's desire and entered our congregation on August 31, 1958. She stated on the admission form that she wanted to give her life to God for all the blessings she had received. On June 22, 1959, she became a novice and received the name Sister Mary Peter. The following years of formation culminated in First Profession on June 21, 1961, and the joyful day of Final

Profession on August 6, 1966.

Sister Mary Peter was thrilled when she was missioned at St. Vincent's Home for Children in Freeport where she herself was nurtured and cared for in her early years. She became a staff member, caring for the young children making their home in the Baby House. Later she moved to "The Big Side" where she was House Mother to 13 boys between the ages of 6-11. She loved and cared for these boys the same way she had been cared for. Because of her own life experiences, she was able to develop a special connection with this spirited group and fondly referred to them as "my boys." She seemed to know how they felt and what they were going through. It was part of her ministry DNA. Years later she could rattle off their names, still fresh in her memory, and even tell you a little about each one. Her years there were the happiest in her ministry career. Sister went on to serve 35 additional years in various healthcare facilities such as St. Anthony, Chicago, IL, St. Joseph, Elgin, IL, St. Joseph Medical Center, Joliet, IL, and Maria Center, Rockford, IL, ministering as a Nurse Aide, Central Service Aide, Medical Records Clerk and Pastoral Care Volunteer.

In 2004, Sister was transferred to the Motherhouse. With her genuine love of people, she was assigned to the Reception Desk where she made all feel welcome. Sister also served weekly in the Volunteer Office at Presence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, IL, and for 10 years she weekly went to Villa Franciscan Nursing Home to visit our infirm Sisters. They looked forward to her coming for she brought them clean clothes, mail, treats and community news. She also shared her presence with other people at the Nursing Home saying, "I just really love people."

Asked how she would like to be remembered, Sister said "as prayerful, thoughtful, helpful and smiling." We know she will be best known for

her willingness to help anybody, anytime with anything. She became what she wanted to be when she entered the convent, "a carrier of God's blessings to others." Like her favorite saint, St. Therese the Little Flower, Sister did many small everyday good deeds that often went unnoticed.

In June 2019, Sister Mary Peter went to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in Joliet, IL, for back surgery rehab. On October 30, 2020, she was taken to AMITA Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, IL, to be treated for COVID-19. She returned to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home on November 23, 2020. On November 24, Sister Death visited her, and she was welcomed home by all her family and FSSH Sisters. We extend our sympathy to her half-brothers Robert, Bernie and James Matchen, half-sister Sue Lockhart, sister-in-law Sharon Gartman and other relatives and friends. Sister Mary Peter, your Franciscan spirit spread the fragrance of kindness, gentleness and simplicity. You have made us better Franciscan Sisters, and your memory will forever be etched in our hearts for the gift you were to us and to the people of God. May the fullness of the resurrection experience now be yours as you see your heavenly Father face-to-face!

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART

*"Enter His gates
with thanksgiving and His courts
with praise." (Psalm 100:4a)*