Sister Mary Patricia O’Brien, age 92, October 12, 2013

Sister Mary Patricia O’Brien died peacefully following a brief illness at Mercy Hospital in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She was a Sister of Mercy for 74 years.

Sister Patricia ministered in nursing administration and nursing education for almost 30 years in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Louisiana after graduating from St. John’s School of Nursing in Springfield, Missouri. In 1972 she began serving in pastoral ministry after completing the Pastoral Care Program at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Sister Patricia was kind, caring and compassionate and was well respected by the communities that she served. She had a great sense of humor with an infectious laugh and smile.

She loved to travel, especially by car because she loved to drive. She loved music and food, especially chocolates. She had many friends and loved to spend time with her family, friends and former students.

Sister Mary Catherine Quintanilla, age 88, October 5, 2013

Sister Mary Catherine Quintanilla died peacefully at Mercy Care Center in Tamuning, Guam, following an extended illness and receiving hospice care. She was a Sister of Mercy for 64 years.

Sister Catherine served as a child care worker and administrator, teacher, local superior and pastoral minister.

She was the oldest of nine children and is survived by four sisters, including Sister Maria Quintanilla. Sister Catherine, a kind and gentle woman, was renowned for her baking and sewing talents, and she loved to play her harmonica and sing.

Sister Mary Maurelia Petrus, age 87, September 1, 2013

Sister Mary Maurelia Petrus died peacefully surrounded by members of her Community. She was a Sister of Mercy for 70 years.

Sister Maurelia served as a hospital administrator of four Mercy hospitals in Brinkley, Ft. Smith and Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Mercy Hospital of Laredo, Texas. She began her ministry in elementary education at St. Patrick School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and transitioned into hospitals after receiving a bachelor’s degree in medical technology from Fontbonne University in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1956. In 1981, she became a beautician and worked in a hospital beauty shop.

Sister Maurelia was kind, caring and compassionate, and had a deep love of Community life. She was very close to her family and spent many hours with her siblings and watching her nieces and nephews grow up. Sister Maurelia loved fixing hair, designing and arranging silk flowers, and crocheting.
Sister Mary Mark Martinez, age 85, August 24, 2013

Sister Mary Mark Martinez died peacefully after an extended illness at Mercy Care Center in Tamuning, Guam, surrounded by her Community and extended family. She was a Sister of Mercy for 64 years.

Sister Mary Mark was a teacher and administrator in North Carolina and Guam at Cathedral Frade School; Academy of Our Lady; St. Anthony School; and Counselor-Bishop Baumgartner Memorial School. She also served in Community leadership, as regional superior and councilor, director of incorporation, and director of Mercy associates.

She was a loving and resourceful leader and had a great sense of humor. At her Diamond Jubilee in 2009 she said: “Of great significance to me is the openness of my religious community to new paradigms, and its willingness to move forward and to effect change for the greater good through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.”

Sister Mary Victoria Clark, age 93, August 18, 2013

Sister Mary Victoria Clark died peacefully at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 78 years.

After devoting the first eight years of ministry to teaching in Texas and Louisiana, Sister Mary Victoria’s ministerial path took a slight turn. In 1948 she returned to school, this time as a student to study nursing at Mercy Health Center in Fort Scott, Kansas. Sister Mary Victoria spent three years in the nursing program there and received her registered nurse certification in 1951.

She spent more than 25 years as a nurse or nursing instructor at Mercy Health Center in Fort Scott, Kansas, and Mercy Hospital in Independence, Kansas.

Sister Mary Victoria was admired for her compassion for patients, students and anyone she met.

Sister Margaret Mary Huber, age 87, August 14, 2013

Sister Margaret Mary Huber died peacefully at Catherine’s Residence in St. Louis, Missouri. She was a Sister of Mercy for 68 years.

Sister Margaret’s ministry was elementary education as a teacher and principal at schools including Christ the King Elementary School in St. Louis; St. Francis Xavier School in Sikeston, Missouri; Saints Simon & Jude School in Gillespie, Illinois; and St. Joseph’s Parish/School in Springfield, Missouri. Later in her ministerial career she was a chaplain at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis.

She received her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Webster College in St. Louis and her master’s in elementary administration from Saint Louis University.
Sister Mary Damien Terlaje, age 89, June 4, 2013

Sister Mary Damien Terlaje died at Mercy Care Center in Tamuning, Guam. She was a Sister of Mercy for 67 years.

One of her first ministries was at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she served as a dietary assistant. She learned the benefits of eating nutritious meals there, including eating an orange every day, which she did for the rest of her life.

She returned to Guam and ministered in elementary education at Cathedral Grade School, St. Anthony School and Santa Barbara School, with an emphasis on preparing students for the sacraments. She also ministered at Infant of Prague Nursery & Kindergarten, working with the day care center staff there.

Sister Damien cherished spending time with her family, especially her brother Edward. She was a woman of purpose and dedication, and she fulfilled her desire to persevere throughout her life. She will be greatly missed by her family, Sisters of Mercy and her extended family.

Sister Mary Rosalia Schroering, age 89, May 7, 2013

Sister Mary Rosalia Schroering died at Mercy Sacred Heart Village in Louisville, Kentucky, following a brief illness and a major stroke. She was a Sister of Mercy for 71 years.

Over the course of 35 years, she served in elementary and secondary schools in Cincinnati, Springfield and Columbus, Ohio, and in Louisville, Kentucky, including Mercy Academy and Assumption High School. After a brief stint in parish ministry, she directed business services at Sacred Heart Home in Louisville and at Marcum & Wallace Hospital in Irvine, Kentucky. Her other ministries and volunteer service included Project A1IMM, Sister Visitor Center, Shively Area Ministries, Day Spring Baxter Avenue, and assisting new refugee families sponsored by Catholic Charities.

To Sister Rosalia, her life as a Sister of Mercy meant constant gratitude for the graces she received. “Without prayer, my life would be nothing. There would be no purpose. The whole meaning of trust in my life has been to respond to God’s call to be a Religious Sister of Mercy and my whole desire is that the life of Christ be deepened within me.”

Sister Maureen Cartwright, age 99, August 2, 2013

Sister Maureen Cartwright died peacefully at Mercy Convent in Savannah, Georgia. She was a Sister of Mercy for 73 years.

Sister Maureen devoted herself to the field of healthcare and hospital administration, serving in various positions in many locations including Mercy Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland; St. Joseph’s Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia; Villa Mercy in Daphne, Alabama; Mt. de Sales Convent in Macon, Georgia; Mt. St. Rita in Cumberland, Rhode Island; and St. Mary’s Home in Savannah, Georgia.

She was quoted in Sister Irene Callahan’s book Catherine’s Sisters: Sisters of Mercy Baltimore Regional Community, A Memoir 1935-2005: “I walk every morning and I see God in nature; I see God in everything now. I am so busy and so interested in so many things. I have had a full and happy life: my future is now.”

Dr. Irving Victor, a retired physician from St. Joseph’s Hospital who worked closely with Sister Maureen, said she looked like Grace Kelly.
Sister Mary Ann Fuerst, age 85, April 12, 2013

Sister Mary Ann Fuerst died peacefully at McAuley Convent in Cincinnati, Ohio. She had been in declining health since suffering a stroke several months earlier. Sister Mary Ann was a Sister of Mercy for 68 years.

She spent her early ministry teaching elementary school and then serving as librarian at McAuley High School and Our Lady of Cincinnati College.

She was dedicated to people who are economically poor, especially the elderly, and was co-founder and former director of the HOME program that ministered to the low income elderly in the Evanston and Walnut Hills sections of Cincinnati. In 2000, she was named one of Cincinnati’s 10 Women of the Year.

Sister Mary Ann had a down-to-earth spirituality. She loved people, and those who knew her will never forget the endearing twinkle in her eyes.

Sister Cecilia Casas, age 79, April 3, 2013

Sister Cecilia Casas died peacefully at Mercy Health Center Convent in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. A Sister of Mercy for 57 years, she was 79 years old.

Her ministries included religious educator, elementary teacher, vocation coordinator, mentor of Mercy Association, and parish social ministry. A native of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, she ministered not only in her home state but in Kansas, Louisiana and Missouri.

Sister Cecilia was social, prayerful, spiritual, and celebrated life. She will be remembered for her kind and charitable nature.

Sister Rosalie May, age 85, March 28, 2013

Sister Rosalie May died peacefully after a long illness at McAuley Convent in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 67 years.

For more than 20 years, Sister Rosalie ministered to the sisters at McAuley Convent until she suffered a severe stroke three years ago.

She taught elementary school from 1950–1964 and served as the executive housekeeper at the Generalate in Bethesda, Maryland. After that, she moved to Grandview Avenue in Cincinnati where she spent 20 years in various levels of administration.

Sister Rosalie was an avid baseball fan and loyal to the Cincinnati Reds and the St. Louis Cardinals. She loved to attend the games, as well as batting practice.

Even after she lost the ability to speak, she found a way to let others know she was pleased to see them and grateful for any comfort they shared with her. In doing so, she shared the lesson that actions speak louder than words.
Sister Mary Doloretta Scarabin, age 100, February 8, 2013

Sister Mary Doloretta Scarabin died at Convent of Mercy in Mobile, Alabama. She turned 100 years old in November and was a Sister of Mercy for 83 years.

Sister Doloretta’s ministry in education began at St. Joseph’s School in Mobile, Alabama, in 1933. She also taught in schools in Florida, Maryland and Georgia. In addition to teaching, Sister Doloretta studied library science at the University of South Alabama and served as a librarian in Alabama and Florida. For many years, she volunteered at the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Sister Doloretta is survived by two sisters and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

Sister Clara Blankemeyer, age 81, January 12, 2013

Sister Clara Blankemeyer died shortly after entering hospice at McAuley Convent in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 63 years.

Sister Clara ministered in elementary education for 17 years throughout the Cincinnati Archdiocese and taught social studies and served as the media specialist at McAuley High School for 16 years. She changed ministries in 1987, serving as manager for subsidized housing for the elderly for 15 years.

Sister Clara enjoyed history and politics and was committed to social justice. She loved sports, especially baseball, and the Reds were her favorite team.

Sister Mary Clarita Roettker, age 93, January 4, 2013

Sister Mary Clarita Roettker died peacefully following a gradual decline at McAuley Convent in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was a Sister of Mercy for 75 years.

For much of her ministry, she served as a teacher and a principal at elementary schools in the Cincinnati Archdiocese. She also taught theology at McAuley High School for more than a quarter of a century.

Sister Mary Clarita served as the sacristain at McAuley Convent for 40 years and also handled the duties of receptionist and coordinated transportation. She was a woman of deep spirituality and a simple way of life.

Sister Mary Clotilda Toelle, age 100, January 4, 2013

Sister Mary Clotilda Toelle died peacefully at Mercy Health Center Convent in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

She was a joyful Sister of Mercy for 82 years and celebrated her 100th birthday in June with enthusiasm when her long life attracted the attention of local media.

She was a devoted teacher and principal at Catholic schools in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas, and a number of her former students and their parents followed her until the day of her death.