

MARIE LOUISE SCHROEN, RSCJ
1909 - 1991

Sister Marie Louise Schroen died suddenly on January 13, 1991, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in the 82nd year of her life. After 18 years of a very active Biblical Apostolate giving series of conferences, not only in the Greenwich area but also in Latin America and many places in this country, she had gone to Pax Christi in August, 1990, to prepare for the coming of the Lord. She shared her love and the richness of her spirit with each one in the house, accompanying them in their life of love, supporting them as she had supported so many others in their sufferings and struggles. She kept up with those who counted on her by telephone and letter, relying on the support of her friends. Her friendships were very deep and sincere. She gave much and expected the same in return, while at the same time maintaining a certain aloofness. She treasured privacy, never sharing her life fully with anyone, but revealing different facets to each of her friends.

Her faults were very human, but they were subsumed in the greatness of her spirit. She knew rejection - she knew loneliness - but she never deviated from the call of God which drew her to perfect abandonment to His will. Her ambition to know God intellectually was gradually transformed as she experienced His love in the dark night of the spirit. She was complex and clear sighted, clarifying the way to the God who demands all.

The funeral Mass was celebrated in the Kenwood chapel on January 17th. Her family came from Boston, New York, and California; her friends and many religious from as far away as Chicago, Washington, D.C., St. Louis and Miami, and from Boston, Greenwich and New York, not to pay tribute, but to be drawn by her to the God she loved with all her being, who had so richly endowed her and to whom she directed all who relied on her wisdom and her clarity of vision. She was a "woman for all seasons"- valiant, sometimes difficult, but always loving and loyal (and questioning) to the Church, the Society, her friends, embracing the world in her thoughts and prayers right to the end.

She was buried in the Kenwood cemetery, close to the grave of Mother Gertrude Bodkin who had supported and guided her as novice, as young religious, and as Mistress of Novices. May Marie Louise rest in peace as she leaves us a final message in the words of Mother Janet Stuart:

I know that when the stress has grown too strong
Thou wilt be there,
I know that when the waiting seems so long
Thou hearest prayer.
I know that through the crash of falling worlds
Thou holdest me,
I know that life and death and all are Thine
Eternally.

N.B. Those who wish to share their reflections on Marie Louise are invited to send them directly to the Provincial House.