

## Abandonment to Divine Providence

"This treasure is everywhere. It is offered to us at all times and wherever we are. All creatures, friends or foes, pour it out in abundance, and it flows through every fiber of our body and soul until it reaches the very core of our being. If we open our mouths they will be filled. God's activity runs through the universe. It wells up and around and penetrates every living being. Where they are, there it is also. It goes ahead of them, it is with them and it follows them. All they have to do is let its waves sweep them onwards.

Fr. Jean-Pierre de Caussade, SJ  
Excerpt from Sr. Beatrice's favorite book



*"Life's journey is to  
God's eternal Day . . .  
For in Life and in death,  
We belong to the Lord!"*



Sr Beatrice Ferrari., FMM  
( M. Paschaline)

Born: June 11, 1921  
Entered: December 8, 1954  
Novitiate: June 13, 1955  
First Vows: June 13, 1957  
Final Vows: June 13, 1960  
Born to Eternal Life: Feb.4, 2007

## Early Years

A native New Yorker, Sr. Beatrice Ferrari was born on June 11, 1921. She was educated in Catholic Schools. As a young woman, she worked for 15 years in the accounting office of a publishing firm and traveled extensively before deciding that religious life was her place in life.

## God's Call

She was directed by her spiritual director to meet the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. When she knocked on the door of Divine Providence, 45<sup>th</sup> St. Manhattan, she was greeted by M. Ambrose. She decided right then and there that the FMMs were the community for her. She entered the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in North Providence, December 8, 1954. She pronounced her first vows June 13, 1957 and her final vows June 13, 1960.

## Missionary Life

Her first mission sending was to San Francisco where she served as receptionist and treasurer for 3 years. Her next sending was to St. Francis community. She worked for several years in the business office of the hospital. Late in 1972 she assumed the responsibility as coordinator of the community when

Sr. Elizabeth Ann Conyers was elected as provincial. Throughout her religious life, her ministry was in finance. As provincial treasurer, she went to Rome for meetings of the Institute treasurers.

One highlight of her life was her sabbatical spent in Nuestra Señora de la Soledad Desert House of Prayer in Tucson, Arizona. Beatrice was a deeply contemplative person. Her favorite book was Abandonment To Divine Providence by Fr. Jean-Pierre de Caussade, S.J.. Throughout her life, Beatrice practiced abandonment to God's Divine Providence. There were occasions when province finances were in dire straits and Beatrice calmly declared that God would provide. It happened on two such occasions that the exact amount of the deficit was given as a legacy.

She was noted to be a serene, quiet, pensive person who thought and listened well before she spoke. She had definite, well thought out opinions about most subjects because of her extensive reading and was able to express her opinion without putting down those around her.

One of her hopes expressed was that the FMMs might become true missionaries right here in their own backyards and that that vocation promotion would catch fire from ideals seen in action. She believed that the church ministry for women was a wonderful field, provided that

those who become involved in it remained feminine, sincere, warm and helpful, not becoming sophisticated and self—assured.

As the coordinator of communities in St. Louis, Roslyn and the Bronx, she was able to say that Religious Life today was a challenge. . .". We must blaze a path anew each day."

Regarding prayer, she felt that not everyone can go the same way. She encouraged innovations in prayer life. She herself was a woman of prayer. She had a keen sense of humor who always had a ready repartee and a hearty laugh. Hanging in her office was a saying "old bookkeepers do not die, they lose their balance." She had a special talent for keeping accounts straight and meeting deadlines and an excellent proof reader. She was an ardent Yankee baseball team fan enjoyed opera, making puzzles, reading spiritual books and the New York Times.

During the last years of her life her eyesight deteriorated to the point of legal blindness. Nevertheless, she was present at all community prayer and gatherings. She continued to read and do puzzles using a magnifying glass.

She was a living example of Franciscan poverty and humility. There was no dross and no fuss in her life. She was a woman of wisdom who was much appreciated and loved.