



**We remember
Sister Mary Josette Carroll, RSM
1916-2008**

~ a Sister of Mercy for 75 years!

*Eulogy by Sister Jeanne Christensen, RSM
October 17, 2008*

Mary Lucille Carroll - known to us also as Sister Mary Josette - was born to James and Mary Ann Carroll on Sept. 3, 1916. She was born at home on her beloved family farm in Granger, Iowa. Family was important to her. She loved to talk about her four brothers, her sisters-in-law and her many nieces and nephews.

Her education spanned from religious vacation school and a one-room school house to a master's degree in education and certification in pastoral care.

She most loved her years at Assumption High School in Granger, perhaps because this is where she first met Msgr. Luigi Ligutti who had a strong influence in her spiritual life. It is Msgr. Ligutti who asked her if she was interested in entering the Sisters of Mercy at Mount Loretto in Council Bluffs. She told him she thought she was too young. He replied, "God wants your youth."

Through her prayer, she came to realize that this was God's invitation and call. Such prayer and understanding of responding to God's call became a hallmark of her life as a Sister of Mercy.

One can see it in the many assignments she fulfilled. Her teaching assignments took her to Des Moines, Council Bluffs, Red Bluff, Calif., and Independence,

Mo. After more than 40 years as principal, teacher, and often sisters' superior at the same time, Sister Josette responded to yet another call - the call to pastoral care.

She served in this capacity for 10 years at Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs and then for 10 years at McAuley Terrace. She became known for her gentleness, patient listening, and quiet praying with those she served.

When she finally "officially" retired, she really did not. She continued to serve others. Many of us have been the recipients of her letters, phone calls, and personal visits. We all knew we were on her "prayer list" which meant a daily remembrance in her conversations with the God she loved so much.

God's final invitation and call came to Sister Josette when he said to her: "Come, my good and faithful servant. I have prepared a place for you."

We know that she now rejoices in the fullness of life with the God she so generously and lovingly served for 92 years - 75 of those as a Sister of Mercy.

We shall all
meet in heaven,
Oh, what a joy
to think of it!
--Catherine McAuley