

SISTER GERMAINE BEVANS, OSB

Rejoice with us as we celebrate and give thanks for our Sister Germaine Bevans, O.S.B. who entered into the fullness of life on February 12, 2010. The daughter of Charles and Petrona Bevans, she was born in Belize, Central America and was a member of St. Francis Xavier parish in Corozal, Belize.

Sister knew by age five that God had called her by name to follow the path of Christ Jesus. Sister Germaine began her journey in the religious life in 1949 when she entered the Pallottine Aspirancy in Belize, Central America. She became a postulant in 1953, received the habit and a new name, Sister Germaine, on May 31, 1954. She made first vows on May 31, 1956, and professed her final vows in Rochdale, England on May 31, 1962, where she was studying at the time. Later Sister came to the United States and completed her undergraduate studies at Bellarmine-Ursuline College in Louisville, KY.



Sister Germaine met a Benedictine Sister from St. Leo, Florida while she was studying at Bellarmine-Ursuline College. After visiting Holy Name Monastery Sister felt led by the Spirit to ask for admission into the community. In 1973 she transferred to the Benedictine Sisters of Florida. She has served the church in Florida as a teacher at St. Martha's School in Sarasota, FL, Epiphany in Venice, FL, and St. Anthony School in San Antonio, FL where she also served as principal for 10 years. During that time she received a Master's degree from Barry University in Miami and post graduate credits from Boston College, and she became a citizen of the United States. In 1986 she was elected prioress of her community and served for 12 years; she served on the Saint Leo University Board of Trustees from 1986-1998 and again from 2000-2009.

After her years of service as prioress, she was appointed by the Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, as Vicar of Religious to more than 500 religious sisters, brothers, and priests, a position which she held up until her illness. In 1999, Sister received the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* award given by Pope John Paul II and conferred upon her by Bishop Robert N. Lynch.

She was preceded in death by her parents Charles and Petrona Bevans and an infant sister Melva Conception. She is survived by two brothers, Bernard Bevans (Yvonne) of Belmopan, Belize and Eric Bevans (Lana) of Belize City, Belize, and six sisters, Gwendolyn Leyton (Hugh), Belmopan, Belize, Muriel Leslie-Lizama, Corozal Town, Belize, Ann Leslie, Zephyrhills, FL, Dorothy Chamberlain (Reginald), Sacramento, CA, Marietina Gabourel, Houston, TX, Dellie Bevans, Wesley Chapel, FL, and many nieces and nephews and grand nieces and grandnephews.

A Vigil service was held February 15, 2010 at Saint Leo Abbey Church. Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated on February 16, 2010 at Saint Leo Abbey Church with burial at Saint Leo Abbey Cemetery. May the Good Shepherd welcome Sister Germaine home and give her rest eternal.