

Necrology of  
Sister Lucille Roy  
(Sister Normand Marie)  
1939-2021

On June 17, 1939, Lucille Yvette Roy entered the world on a day when the wind was howling, and the rain was torrential. She was the oldest daughter of Normand and Helen (Jette) Roy. Her brother Ronald, only son, was two and a half years old. Three sisters followed: Elaine, Pauline and Janet

Mr. Roy, an Anglophone, had an energetic personality and provided for his growing family in any way he could. Meeting the needs of a family of six was a constant challenge. He was always ready to help someone in need. He was generous and gave gratuitously.

Mrs. Roy, a Francophone, was quiet, reflective and a discreet presence within the home. Her acceptance of heartaches and of fragile health witnessed not only to her inner strength, but also to her strong faith. She not only ran a smooth household but was also a gifted seamstress. Mrs. Roy's love of music, of family and of God was a constant in her life.

The Roy family participated in many Church activities. The sacraments and Sunday Mass were a priority. Frequent pilgrimages were made to Saint Anne's Shrine in Fiskdale, MA. Lucille's parents witnessed their faith in real but subtle ways. They had a deep awareness of the presence of God in their lives.

Lucille's early years were playful and oblivious to the war in Europe. She was quiet, shy and wanted to please. Being the oldest girl, she was often responsible for her younger siblings; a responsibility she took very seriously.

At five years old, Lucille entered Kindergarten at Holy Name in Worcester under the tutelage of the Sisters of Saint Anne. She was an obedient and conscientious student who loved and admired her dedicated teachers. In the second grade, Lucille was diagnosed with rheumatic fever. Because Lucille needed a quiet atmosphere and could not exert herself, run or play, she could not attend school for two and a half years. At this time, she lived with her paternal grandparents who loved and cared for her. She remained with them until she was fourteen.

When Lucille was sixteen, her father asked her to work in a factory for the summer to help the family financially. Tearfully, Lucille accepted to leave school to continue working. It was there that she met Roland and accepted to marry him. While Roland was overseas, something started stirring within Lucille's heart; she prayed for God's guidance. At that time, she met the Sisters of the Assumption in Millbury, MA. The freedom and simplicity of their lifestyle attracted something deep within her. God was inviting her to a life that she had never dreamed possible. As Lucille continued to struggle between her love for Roland and her profound desire to embrace religious

life, she sought counsel and was advised to follow her heart. Both Roland and her parents were surprised, but they respected her decision to become a religious. At twenty years old, Lucille began another chapter of her journey into a life of educational and spiritual fulfillment.

On September 24, 1959, Lucille entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of the Assumption in Petersham, MA. The two and half years of formation were a time not only for learning and for living in a world of mutual respect, but also for growing and for deepening the love of God that surpasses all other loves. Her deepest desire was to listen attentively to God's stirrings and to establish a true and lasting relationship with the God of her life.

Called to reveal the Father's love as an educator, Sr. Lucille taught Middle and Junior High School subjects in MA, NY and VT. In the fall of 1973, she left for Brazil to study the language and the culture before ministering to the people of Guimaraes and later Recife. She gave herself wholeheartedly to whatever was confided to her. Deteriorating health necessitated Sr. Lucille's return to the Mother House in Nicolet where she remained for the next fourteen years.

In the summer of 1991, Sr. Lucille joyfully returned home to the States after eighteen years. With the same dedication, self-giving and diligence, she embraced each ministry entrusted to her either as a principal in Chicopee Falls and in Southbridge or as a volunteer in the Development Office at Holy Name Jr. and Sr. High School in Worcester, MA. She ministered with a heart eager to serve and BE all that she could BE through God's sustaining and transforming presence.

A sabbatical awakened in Sr. Lucille a new dimension of gifts. Writing poetry and doing art not only opened a door to self-expression, but also enabled her to express the beauty of the life emerging from a renewed and recreated body and spirit. Sr. Lucille was always grateful for all that she had received not only from a beneficent Mother-God, but also for the support and for the love of her family and of her friends who remained for her a constant presence of the living God.

Living as a Sister of the Assumption witnessed to the choice Sr. Lucille made many years ago. Like Mary, she aspired to be the "handmaid of the Lord" and "to do all that Jesus told her. God's love was the source of her goodness and her capacity to love, to share, to serve, to adapt, to suffer, to laugh and to enjoy life. Her suffering and losses were a school of compassion opening her being to Jesus the source of her strength and of her resolve to let God and to be pliable in God's hands. Being happy and flowering in the places where she served were a blessing for all whose lives she touched. Yes, God blessed her journey as she continually aspired to draw all to a deeper awareness of God's all-embracing love.

Lucille, your search for the pearl of great price has been fulfilled as you now rest in Mother-God's tender embrace, the source of everlasting love, of deep peace and of beatific joy.

"Behold I make everything new.  
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End." (Rev. 5a, 6a)