



## Sister Judith Emge, OSB

Sister Judith Emge, age 70, of Mother of God Monastery, Watertown, SD died unexpectedly at 11:30 p.m., Saturday, July 12, 2008, at the Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. A Liturgical Wake will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2008, at Mother of God Monastery. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, July 17, at 10:30 a.m. Celebrants will be Father Denis Quinkert, OSB, of Blue Cloud Abbey and Father Denis Meier, Monastery Chaplain. Burial will be in the monastery cemetery.

Judith Ann Emge was born August 2, 1937, the fifth of 11 children born to Richard and Gertrude Wipf Emge of Evansville, IN. She attended 11 years of Catholic education, graduating from Mater Dei High School in 1955. In September of 1955, she entered Immaculate Conception Convent in Ferdinand, Indiana.

In 1956, Judith, then known as Sister Mary Andrew, was missioned to the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in Belcourt, North Dakota as a founding member of Queen of Peace Monastery. She made her monastic profession in 1957. S. Judith spent 47 years as a member of that small Benedictine community. By 2001, the group had dwindled to six. At that time, the Sisters decided they could no longer continue as they were, an aging community, who had not received new members in many years. As members of the Federation of St. Gertrude, they asked to be dissolved as an independent community, and chose to live out their monastic vocation in other monasteries. On December 8, 2003, Sisters Judith and Diane Miller arrived at Mother of God Monastery to begin a probationary period at the monastery to determine if this was the place where they wanted to spend the rest of their monastic lives. On March 18, 2007, the two sisters officially transferred their vow of stability from Queen of Peace Monastery to Mother of God Monastery.

Sister Judith attended Mount Marty College in Yankton SD, receiving a B.A. degree in Elementary Education. Her many years of ministry were in the field of education, first in Indiana and then at St. Ann's Indian Mission in Belcourt, ND. From 1968-1992, she served as Principal and as Executive Director of St. Ann's, later called the Objibwa Indian School. In 1975 she received her M.A. degree in Elementary Education.

In 1992 she began as Development Director and Registrar of Queen of Peace Center. She served in that position until she was elected Prioress in 1997, a position she held until 2003 when the monastery closed. Since joining Mother of God Monastery, Sister Judith has served as Administrative Assistant in the Benedictine Sisters Foundation Office. In 2007, she was elected to serve on the monastery Council and Board of Directors.

Sister Judith is survived by her brothers, Richard of South Bend, IN and David of New York City and her sisters Pat Smead, Sue Berry, Kate Wittgen and Barbara Rexing, all of Evansville, IN, numerous nieces and nephews and her Sisters of Mother of God Monastery, especially her good friend Sister Diane Miller.