

*Adorers of the Blood of Christ
Martyrs of Faith*



Josipa Nevistić, ASC

Eutalija Kulier, ASC



*God of life, Source of hope, the violence
within our world, our communities,
our families,
Indeed our very selves Is destroying
creation. Make still The restless spirit
within me
that is self-seeking. Stir within my heart
a renewed spirit of reverence, respect,
and reconciliation.*

*In union with the Precious Blood of
Jesus give me strength to break the
cycle of violence by realizing that peace
begins with me, Lord.*

Amen

*Adorers of the Blood of Christ
Martyrs of Charity*



Sister Shirley Kolmer, ASC



Sister Barbara Ann Multra, ASC



Sister Mary Joel Kolmer, ASC



Sister Kathleen McGuire, ASC



Sister Agnes Mueller, ASC

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

Sister Barbara Ann Muttra was a missionary at heart. She was born in 1923 in Springfield, Illinois and professed her vows as an Adorer in 1941. Saving lives through nursing was her passion; it carried her to Vietnam to serve with Catholic Relief Services, then to Liberia, West Africa in 1971. There, she began clinics, challenged authorities to clean up cow and goat dung that were sickening children, and worked tirelessly to serve the homeless and oppressed. She was lovingly called "Old Ma." It was a mission of mercy for a co-worker that resulted in ambush and death at the hands of Liberian soldiers on October 20, 1992. Presently, Barbara Ann is remembered in Liberia through medical clinics and numerous girls named after her.

Sister Shirley Kolmer is described as a person of vision, justice and peace. Born in Waterloo, Illinois in 1930, she went on to profess her vows with the Adorers in 1947. Shirley was a professor of mathematics at St. Louis University, then later at the University of Liberia as a Fulbright Scholar. Following a term as provincial for the Ruma Province, Shirley eagerly returned to teach math in Liberia. Even when the political situation turned violent in 1990 and the sisters returned to the U.S. for a while, it was Shirley's love and commitment to the Liberian people that led her to return. This eventually caused her death when she was shot and killed at the convent by Liberian rebel forces on October 23, 1992.

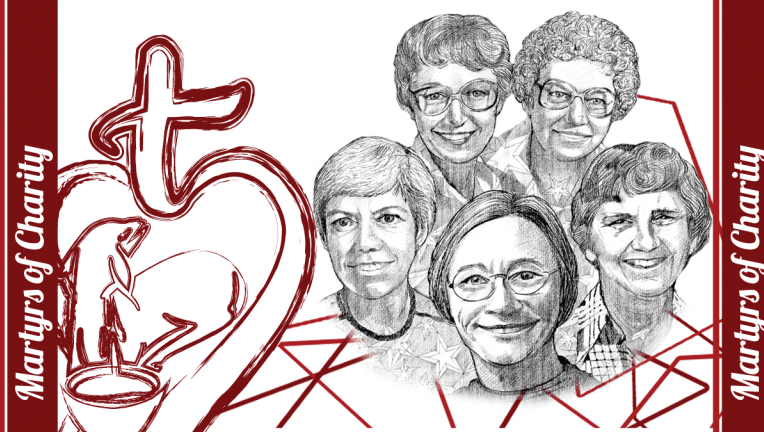
Sister Joel Kolmer was a joyful and creative person. Her uplifting spirit and laughter were contagious. A cousin of Sr. Shirley Kolmer, Sr. Joel was born in 1934 in Waterloo, Illinois and became an Adorer in 1957. With a degree in Elementary Art Education, she taught in elementary schools and at the Catholic Children's Home in Alton, Illinois. In 1982 the nudging of the Holy Spirit convinced her to minister in Liberia. In addition to affecting adults with her joyful spirit, she encouraged and guided young Liberian women who desired religious life. Sr. Joel was a victim of the ambush with Sr. Barbara Ann and died on October 20, 1992.

Sister Agnes Mueller is remembered for promoting personal dignity through perseverance. She was born in a farming community of Bartelso, Illinois in 1929 and professed vows as an Adorer in 1948. Along with a degree in nursing, Agnes also became a formator for novices and an educator in parishes, finding life amidst the people instead of behind a desk. In 1988 she responded to a call for ministry in Liberia where literacy and pastoral work connected her to the hearts and minds of the people, especially the women whose dignity suffered. She, too, died on October 23, 1992 when Liberian rebels confronted the sisters at their convent.

Sister Kathleen McGuire worked endlessly to right the wrongs of unjust systems. Born in Pond Settlement, Illinois in 1937, Kathleen became an Adorer in 1956. It was a community supported her passion for justice and peace. She was instrumental in the Ruma province discernment to join the Sanctuary Movement and give shelter to Latin American refugees at their Motherhouse. Someday, she hoped to minister in Central or South America, but instead, an invitation came from the sisters in Liberia in 1991. She was needed to counsel the people surviving the trauma of civil war in their country as well as be compassionate presence among her own sisters. There was so much to be done, but her life was cut short on October 23, 1992, when she was killed at the convent with her two other community members.

Josipa Nevistić was born on March 8, 1907, in Bosanska Gradiška to Ivo and Katica Nevistić. She pronounced her first vows on August 15, 1926, and her perpetual vows on August 15, 1931. She worked as a school teacher. On April 18, 1944, during the worst of the horrors of WWII, After having left the community, Josipa lived with a family in Ruševó (near Slovonska Požega) and worked in the parish. she taught catechism to children and worked with youth and adults. Sister Josipa was put in prison. After being released from prison, she went back to Ruševó and was taken, abused and killed. The exact day she was killed is not known, but it was at the beginning of the month of October in 1946. For various years, the people did not talk about the event, because of fear, and they did not know where she had been buried. A few years later, her body was found near a river and was taken to the cemetery. All this was secretly done. No sign of recognition was put on her tomb in order to prevent her body from being found again and be further vilified. Her name was reported in the monographies of the Croatian martyrs of the Second World War.

Eulalija Kulier was born on February 10, 1910, in Fojnica to Aleksa and Jozefina Kulier. She pronounced her first vows on August 15, 1929, and her perpetual vows on August 18, 1934. In 1946, after WWII when the communists expropriated all the schools and houses of the Sisters, Eulalija, like many other Sisters, went in search of a place to live and a job in order to survive. Together with Josipa Nevistić she stayed in Croatia in the area of Slavonska Požega and lived and worked in Pleternica. She taught and played the organ. She was abused and killed on March 1, 1947, and her body was thrown in the Orjava river; before killing her they cut off her fingers, mockingly asking her to play the organ. After the snow melted, her mangled body was found on March 25 and was buried in the cemetery.



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