

Mass of Resurrection
Sister Cecilia Ranger
(Sister Mary Sheila)

March 6, 1930 – August 5, 2026



*We may have different religions, different languages, different
colored skin, but we all belong to one human race.*

-Kofi Annan

Chapel of the Holy Names
Marylhurst, Oregon
August 18, 2026

Celebrant: Msgr. Charles Lienert
SNJM Representative: Maureen Delaney, SNJM

Musicians: Carol Higgins, SNJM, cantor
Mary Straub, pianist
Frodo Okulam, Associate, viola

Prelude: *Canticle of the Turning* (instrumental)

Placing of the Gospel: Carole Strawn, SNJM
Presentation of Vows: Anne Herkenrath, SNJM

Gathering Song: *All are Welcome, #543*

Welcome: Judith Mayer, SNJM

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Leviticus 19:32-34
Read by: Sharon Encallado (niece)

Responsorial: *I Will Always Thank the Lord*

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1, 2:5
Read by: Monica Ranger (niece)

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-40

Homily: Msgr. Charles Lienert

Prayers of the Faithful: Sue Woodruff, SNJM
Response: *Gracious God, Hear our prayer*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of Gifts: Frodo Okulam, Associate
Marilyn Schroeder, SNJM

Offertory: *God, Beyond All Names, #435*

Holy, Holy: #871
Mystery of Faith: #872
Great Amen: #875
Our Father: Recited
Lamb of God: #876

Communion Music: *Spirit and Grace #350*

Meditation: *Dona Nobis Pacem, #214*

Reflection: Mary Ann Farley, SNJM

FINAL COMMENDATION

Incensing of the Coffin: Msgr. Charles Lienert

Music: *Song of Farewell*

*May the choirs of angels, come to greet you
May they speed you to paradise.
May the Lord enfold you, in his mercy,
May you find eternal life.*

Prayer of Farewell: Msgr. Charles Lienert and Maureen Delaney, SNJM

Sending Forth: *How Can I Keep from Singing #445*



Sister Cecilia A. Ranger, SNJM

March 6, 1930 – August 5, 2026

Sister Cecilia A. Ranger, SNJM, 96, died on August 5 in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Cecilia Ranger was born in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, oldest of the seven children of Theodore and Elizabeth Burnett Ranger. In 1947 she graduated from Sherwood (Oregon) High School, working a year before starting at Marylhurst College in 1948. With a deep interest in religious life, Cecilia entered the Sisters' Novitiate in 1949, eventually receiving the religious name Sister Mary Sheila.

Sister Cecilia's ministry career spanned teaching, spiritual formation, SNJM community service, and academic leadership. Having completed a B.A. in Home Economics at Marylhurst College, she spent 15 years in SNJM high schools teaching sewing, cooking and other home ec skills. The schools included Sacred Heart Academy, Salem; St. Francis High, Eugene; The Immaculate High, Seattle; Holy Names Academy, Spokane; and St. Mary's Academy, Portland.

In late 60s and early 70s Cecilia's primary assignment was as novice director for the Oregon Province and later as vocation director. During this time she also completed a master's in theology from Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles.

When Marylhurst College transitioned in 1974 to a non-traditional co-educational college, Cecilia was named director of the Christian Spirituality Center at Marylhurst. In 1978 she moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where she spent five years at St. Mary's Seminary and University as a professor, spiritual director and advisor while also pursuing her Ph.D. in biblical studies.

After returning to Oregon, she taught at Mt. Angel Seminary until 1986, when she was selected as Provincial leader of the Holy Names Sisters in Oregon. During her tenure, she facilitated the first phases of development for Mary's Woods at Marylhurst, the continuing care retirement community established by the Sisters on their Marylhurst property.

When she completed her six-year term as provincial in 1992, Cecilia joined the Marylhurst College faculty as chair of the Religious Studies and Philosophy Department. There, she developed a graduate theology program with an emphasis on pastoral ministry and interfaith dialogue and a partnership with San Francisco Theological Seminary for a doctor of ministry. She later served on the Board of Trustees after Marylhurst became a university.

In recent years, Cecilia was an active member of the Mary's Woods community, where she was a friend to many and continued to teach, write, and lead workshops on theology and spirituality. When she wasn't teaching or studying, she was a great hostess. She enjoyed cooking and baking for friends and family. She also enjoyed sewing and was quick to offer to mend clothing items.

Cecilia continued to remain interested in the life and spirit of the Church and the future of religious life, and she kept up with the latest thinking and movements in this arena. She will be remembered as dedicated to the mission of the Sisters of the Holy Names, as a life-long learner and as a woman of deep faith.

A Holy Names Sister for 75 years, Cecilia is survived by her brothers, Patrick and Bruce Ranter, her nephews, nieces and cousins and her religious community.

*“Education has, as one of its primary objects,
to teach us how to stop and be still and look.
How to concentrate our gaze till things
begin to reveal their mystery to us.
It must teach us to preserve and heighten
our sense of wonder, which is the womb of
poetry and philosophy alike, for otherwise,
no matter what our book-learning,
beauty and life will pass us by.”*

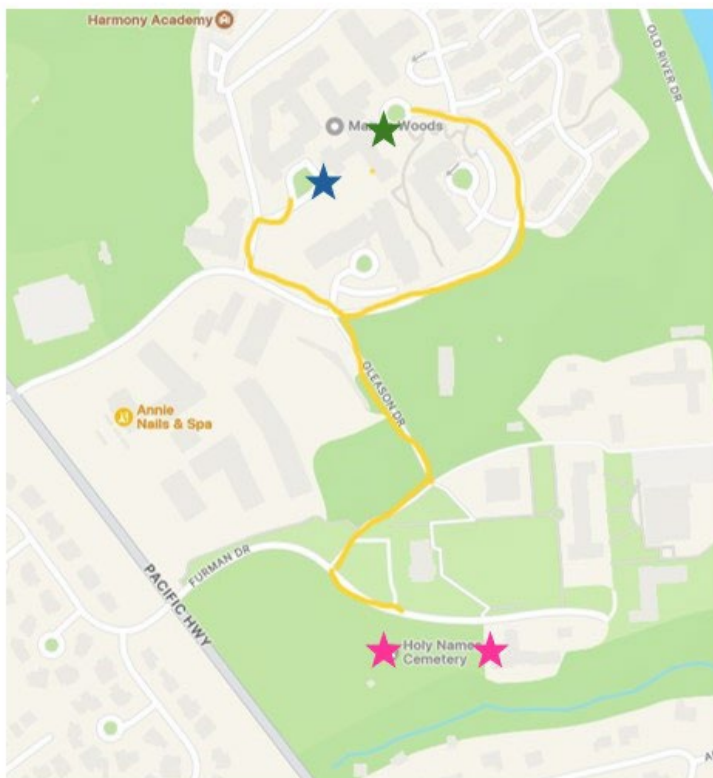
-Gerald Vann, OP

My philosophy of the discipline and art of education can be summed up pretty much like that of Gerald Vann, OP (above) or in my ministerial practice to people of all cultures and religions: Education unveils the Mystery of God created as potential in each student. Revelation of this Mystery comes forth with loving, listening, praying, creating a hospitable and warm climate for students' gifts and questions to emerge, and with being tenacious about never giving up on a person.

-Cecilia Ranger, SNJM



A burial ceremony for Sister Cecilia will be held directly after the funeral at the Holy Names Cemetery (marked on the map). Following that, there will be reception at the Faculty House (also marked on the map). All are welcome.



- ★ = Mary's Woods Main entrance
- ★ = Sisters of the Holy Names Entrance
- ★ = Holy Names Cemetery & Faculty House (reception)



If we go in search of other people, other cultures, other ways of thinking, other religions, we come out of ourselves and begin that beautiful adventure that is called 'dialogue'. Dialogue is very important for ones maturity, because in relation with other people, relations with other culture, also in healthy relations with other religions, one grows, matures

- Pope Francis