



Sr. Rita (Marie Xavier) Deschenes
June 13, 1935 ~ January 25, 2010

Sr. Rita Deschenes, (Marie Xavier), beloved member of the Sisters of St. Joseph in her 55th year, died at Mont Marie Health Care Center on January 25, 2010.

She was born in Fall River, MA, the daughter of Albert and Bermonde (Lemieux) Deschenes. She entered the Sisters of St Joseph of LePuy in Fall River in 1955 from St. Jean Baptiste Parish and became a member of the Sisters of St Joseph of Springfield when the two Congregations merged in 1974. She attended high school at Jesus Marie Academy and received a BA degree from Annhurst College. She later earned an MA degree in religious studies from Providence College. Among Sister Rita's teaching assignments were St. Michael's in Ocean Grove, St Louis School in Swansea, St Matthew's, Fall River and St Joseph School, Vinton, LA. She also taught at St Joseph High School in Conway, AR and directed the Religious Education program. Sister Rita's most recent ministry was to the members of St Joseph Parish in DeRidder LA. where she served as Director of Religious Education and Pastoral Minister. She served this parish faithfully for 31 years.

In addition to the Sisters in her community, she is survived by her brothers Robert, Albert and Paul and her sisters Loretta Gonyon, Alice Beauchesne, Claudette St Laurent, Lucille Tarvis, Pauline Birge, Anne Mayers and Irene Deschenes; and numerous nieces and nephews