

ALBANY, NY, GABRIELLE A. HUSSON RSCJ, 99 years, died at Teresian House, June 30, 2010. Born in Rochester, NY, March 10, 1911, Gabrielle was the eldest of the three daughters of Gustave Husson and Alice Husson (nee Glennon). Gabrielle attended the "local" parochial school, which was quite a distance from her home. She wrote of this experience, "to the rigors of getting there, I attribute my longevity". She attended high school at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Prince St., in Rochester, graduating from there in June, 1928. Sr. Husson entered the Society of the Sacred Heart at Kenwood, Albany, NY, on November 21, 1929 and pronounced her Final Vows at the Mother House in Rome on February 10, 1938. She received a BA from Manhattanville College, an MA from Boston College and an M.A.R.E from Providence College.

Sr. Husson began her ministry in Education in 1932 at Newton Country Day School in Newton MA. From then, until 1949, she was Dean of Students and teacher in Sacred Heart Schools in Noroton, Ct, 91st St., NYC, Detroit, MI, and Philadelphia, PA. In the years from 1949 until 1956, she served as Headmistress, first at Newton Country Day School and then at Elmhurst Academy in Providence, R.I. In 1956, Sr. Husson was named President of Newton College of the Sacred Heart, Newton, MA. During her 13 year tenure, the college doubled its enrollment and established innovative programs. With her wisdom and her many gifts of mind and heart, and at the foundation of it all, her contemplative spirit, Sr. Husson was an outstanding teacher, mentor and administrator. Her influence has remained evident through the years in the loving and grateful correspondence of former students and colleagues. It was said of her that "in a time of change, she provided creativity, stability and anchorage."

Upon her retirement from Newton College, Sr. Husson moved to Washington, D.C. as Religious Superior of the "Apostolic Center for Retired Religious of the Sacred Heart". During the years there, she taught GED Programs both at the Hispanic Center and at the Women's Detention Center. Returning to Boston in 1975, she served as Provincial Secretary and taught CCD Classes, courses in Scripture and Theology in parishes. In 1997, she retired to Kenwood Convent in Albany where she became Sacristan, assisted in Pastoral Care and brought joy, life, love and spiritual assistance to the Community. It must also be added that the Boston Red Sox and the N.E. Patriots had in her a staunch and faithful fan.

In January, 2008, Sr. Husson joined the RSCJ community at Teresian House. Her physical condition gradually worsened and on Wednesday, June 30, she died gently and peacefully.

Sr. Husson is survived by her half-brother Christopher Husson of Pittsford, NY. Her sisters, Alice, also a Religious of the Sacred Heart, and Peggy preceded her in death. A Memorial Liturgy will be celebrated in the Teresian House Chapel at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, July 7, 2010. Interment in the Kenwood Convent cemetery will follow the Liturgy.

Gabrielle Anne Husson, RSCJ
March 10, 1911-June 30, 2010

Gabrielle Husson was born in Rochester, New York, eldest daughter of Gustav J. Husson and Alice Glennon. Her sister Alice, born six years later, would also enter the Society. Gabrielle attended the parish school for elementary education. The school was at some distance, and she later remarked that the rigors of getting there were the cause of her longevity. She attended secondary school at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Prince Street, where she graduated in 1928. She later wrote: "I think I had always known that I had a vocation and I was considering the Carmelites. When I was in my second year in high school, Mother Josephine Lawlor, the Mistress General, told me she thought I should enter the Society, and from then on, I never had a doubt." She entered at Kenwood on November 21, 1929, took the habit on May 19, 1930, and made her first vows on May 22, 1932. For the next two years she had classes in the junior school at Newton Country Day School, then for two years high school classes and supervision at Noroton. After one year as surveillante general at Ninety-First Street, she went to probation in Rome and was professed on February 10, 1938.

Upon returning home, she continued her high school work at Grosse Pointe, Eden Hall, and Lawrence Avenue, while obtaining her B.A. from Manhattanville in 1942 with a major in Chemistry and minors in Education and French, and then the M.A. in English from Boston College in 1950. In 1948, she became Mistress of Studies at Lawrence Avenue, then Mistress General at Newton Country Day School, 1949-1953 and at Elmhurst, 1953-1956. In that year, she was named President of Newton College, a position that she held until 1969. Meanwhile, she obtained a second Masters degree in Religious Education from Providence College in 1958. During her tenure as president, the college more than doubled in enrollment, quadrupled its assets, and increased its scholarship awards thirty-fold. When she announced her retirement, forty-two lay faculty of the college signed a petition asking her to reconsider. It was later said of her that "in a time of change, she provided creativity, stability and anchorage."

She celebrated her retirement by obtaining permission to spend three weeks that summer in Greece with Elizabeth White as traveling companion, "in order to study the influence of the Greek world on early Christianity." According to the rules at the time, the line of permissions went from her local superior to provincial superior to the superior general, all of whom signed off on it. Upon her return, she took up residence at Varnum Street, Washington as superior of the newly established retirement community. During that time, she taught GED classes at the Hispanic Center and the Women's Detention Center in Washington. In 1975, she was back in Boston as provincial secretary, then from 1978 to 1982, as secretary to the IPB and doing work with the Design Task Force. This time in her spare time, she taught CCD classes and courses in Scripture and Theology in local parishes. Her residence until 1997 was in various communities in the Boston area: Allston and three different locations in Cambridge, the last at 104 Cushing St. During the years of residence in Cambridge, she was a member of the Banking Committee and the Altar Society of St. Paul Church, Cambridge, the board of trustees of Kenwood infirmary, Newton Country Day School, the Cambridge Council on the Aging, the Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, and Cambridge Residents against Crime. On a

personnel form done in 1993, she lists her special skills as sewing, Chinese brush painting, and cooking.

One of her favorite occupations during these years, with her friend and community companion Mary Quinlan, was to give courses to the novices, usually in the house where Gabrielle and Mary lived, often over homemade coffee cake and tea. In an interview in *RSCJ Newsletter* 19:8 (1997), Gabrielle said that she spoke to them about various aspects of the four works of the Society and the spirit that was to animate the religious in their various offices. She said: "I had three objectives: to show that prayer was the center of our life, as envisioned by Mother Barat, and everything else was secondary; that the life, understood as a whole, made eminent sense; and that the Society today can be understood only by understanding our past."

In 1997 she and Mary Quinlan retired to Kenwood. There Gabrielle was sacristan and assistant in pastoral care, a joyful and serene presence to all. She was asked to give reflections on feast days and was active in liturgy preparation. She continued to maintain relationships with former students and friends, whose ample testimony both before and after her death witness to the effect she had on them. The deaths of Mary in 1999 and her sister Alice in 2006 left her more lonely, but she continued her deep contemplative life. As her physical strength declined, she expressed regret that she was not doing enough for the community. In January, 2008, she joined the growing community at Teresian House, and on June 30 of that year, she gently and peacefully entered the embrace of God.