

CATHERINE HENSELER
JUNE 6, 1951 - JUNE 5, 2011

Catherine Henseler was born June 6, 1951 in Rennes, France, the daughter of Jean Déroff, an electrician working for the city of Rennes, and Denise Roulliaux, who worked at home as a seamstress while raising her three children. Catherine's younger sister, Marie Helene Cloarec, lives in Montreal, Canada and her older brother, Jean Allen Deroff, remains in France.

As a child, Catherine loved reading, including books of the lives of the saints. This may have been the start of her life-long spiritual journey and love for God. Early in her life her family moved to Dinard, a small town right next to the Atlantic Ocean. She often visited the beach, where she loved to swim and to take sailboat lessons.

In her teens, Catherine was active with a Catholic Youth group. She loved spending time with her youth group friends, and taking part in many activities such as hiking trips in the mountains. She also deeply loved music and started taking piano lessons at age 9. She played piano frequently at a music college until 20 years of age. She was a wonderful singer, and when she sang, it felt like she brought a glimpse of heaven down to earth. A listener had no doubt that heaven existed when listening to Catherine's voice.

After high school graduation, Catherine entered nursing school. After two years she graduated and went to work at a nearby hospital, where she worked in intensive care and was responsible for the lives of many patients.

In 1973 Catherine's sister introduced her to the Unification Church. She participated in the One World Crusade and worked extensively in both Japan and Korea. She invested countless prayers, tears and hours of work in her efforts to convey God's love to the people of these two countries. She also participated in the World Rally for Korean Freedom at Yeouido Island in 1975, where more than a million people gathered to affirm the ideals of political, social and religious freedom.

She then became involved in church activities in France and in Europe and contributed to the Home Church mission in Britain in 1978. In 1982 Catherine was blessed in marriage to Gerald Henseler at the Madison Square Garden in New York City by Reverend & Mrs. Sun Myung Moon.

In the early 1980s, Catherine and Gerald settled in Hyattsville, Maryland. Catherine soon set up her own home daycare business. For over sixteen years she cared for scores of boys and girls, from infants and toddlers, to pre-school children. She deeply loved all of the children entrusted to her care, and tried to combine firmness with compassion, encouragement and sympathetic listening and understanding. She tried to teach them values that would help them later in life – values such as respect, sharing, honesty and fair play. She then worked with the New Hope Academy school for about 5 years to help teach pre-school children until she became ill with cancer and a stroke.

Catherine and Gerald were blessed with three children of their own – Lynnette, Mark and Matthew. Over the years, Catherine and Gerald did their best to raise their daughter and two sons with love, and to help them to develop their love for God.

Catherine always tried to put God first in her thoughts and actions. In difficult situations she would take the issue to God in prayer, in order to understand how to reconcile the problem and to heal any hurt feelings. She viewed all people as brothers and sisters and part of God's heavenly family.

Catherine had a vivid and deep sense of the reality of the Heavenly Spiritual World, and of the good results that can come from prayer. As it says in the Bible to pray without ceasing, well that was Catherine. Her life was full of prayer for others.

As we congratulate Catherine on beginning her new life, it is quite likely that for a long time to come, she will be sending her love and prayers to all of her family, and to the friends she leaves behind.