



Marzetta Douglass, S.D.S.

Date of Birth *February 19, 1929*

Date of Commitment *September 20, 2008*

Date of Death *April 5, 2011*

Marzetta Laye was born in Shelbyville, Tennessee on February 19, 1929. She was the daughter of Ethel Thurman and Robert Laye. She attended elementary school and high school in Shelbyville. After high school, she moved to St. Louis, Missouri.

After moving to St. Louis, Marzetta graduated from St. Louis University and taught in parochial and public schools for many years. She married the late Eugene Clifford Douglass II in 1951 and that union produced two sons, Philip and Eugene III.

In the late 1990's, Marzetta returned to Shelbyville to care for her ailing Mother, Aunt and Uncle. Through her membership at St. William Catholic Church, she became acquainted with the Salvatorians. In 2003, she met the Lay Salvatorians and set off on a journey to become a Lay Salvatorian. Illness lengthened that journey but on September 20, 2008, she realized her dream and made her commitment at a Southern Region Retreat in Scottsboro, Alabama. Marzetta loved being a Lay Salvatorian. She felt very much a part of the community and felt that the Salvatorians encouraged her giftedness. A highlight of her life was making a visit to Rome and staying at the Salvatorian Motherhouse.

Marzetta's main priority in life was the Church. She was a deeply religious woman and enjoyed sharing her faith with anyone who would listen. She was very involved with her parish of St. William. She served as a lector and Eucharistic Minister and also served on the Building Committee. She volunteered at a hospital each week and was Vice-President of a care-givers relief program.

The last two years of her life, Marzetta spent living in St. Louis, close to her sons and her beloved granddaughter, Kennedey Marzetta. Marzetta was strong-willed and independent throughout her life, no easy task for a young black woman born when and where she was. She leaves behind an army of friends, loved ones and a fierce, strong, life-legacy for her namesake, Kennedey.

Marzetta brought much joy to all who knew her. May she enjoy the fruits of her labors, resting in the arms of our Divine Savior.