

In Celebration of the Completed Life of
ELLEN MARIE RISSKY

The Obituary

We are gathered here to mark the sojourn through life of Ellen Marie Rissky. Ellen was sent by God to live in this world, as part of the family of humankind, and now she has been removed by God from her station.

Ellen was born in Lyons, Illinois on April 9, 1941 and died on November 30, 1982 in Sevagram, India. She was the daughter of Mary Rissky of Frankfort, Illinois and the late George Rissky. She was the sister of Magdalene Nikodem of Mokena, Illinois; George Rissky and Phillip Rissky of Downers Grove, Illinois; Raymond Rissky of Lyons, Illinois, and Major James J. Rissky of Springfield, Missouri; all of whom survive her.

Ellen attended Washington and Costello Elementary Schools in Lyons and graduated from J. Sterling Morton High School in Cicero. She attended Morton College in Cicero, Illinois, and received an Associate of Arts diploma. She graduated from Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Illinois with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1966. In 1970, she obtained a Master of Arts Degree from Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois. From 1977 to 1979 she was a doctoral candidate at The Illinois School of Professional Psychology and continued at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology until 1980.

Ellen's youth was enriched by an interest and ability in music and she played the trumpet in many school and church events. She was baptized in the Berwyn Bible Church which she attended in her youth. Later she joined the Plymouth Brethren Church of Wheaton, Illinois.

From 1966 to 1967 Ellen served as a child care worker at the Elgin State Hospital in Elgin, Illinois. In 1968, she became a rehabilitation councilor at Lincoln State School in Lincoln, Illinois. From 1970 to 1971, she was a psychology

intern at Peoria State Hospital in Peoria, Illinois. She served as a child psychologist at the Muskingum Mental Health Center in Zanesville, Ohio during 1971. In 1972 she became a clinical psychologist at the Garfield Park Mental Health Center. From 1974 to 1975 she served at the Henry Horner Child and Adolescent Center. Having spent ten years of her career caring for troubled and retarded children and adolescents, Ellen moved, in 1976, to the care of adult patients at the Chicago Read Mental Health Center where she served as senior clinician until 1981.

Ellen participated in several professional organizations including The American Psychological Association as an associate (voting) member. She held full membership in The American Association of Mental Deficiency, The Illinois Psychological Association and The British Psychological Association as a full member.

In April 1979, Ellen began a one year internship with the Order:Ecumenical Chicago House in Fifth City. She remained there until September 1980 when she moved to the Chicago Nexus House. In September 1982 she accepted an assignment to India and lived in Sevagram Village in the State of Maharashtra. Conducting training programs in effective methods has been an important aspect of Ellen's work with the Institute of Cultural Affairs. While she was in Fifth City, in 1979, she participated in the Human Development Training School. From October to November 1981, she attended the The 34th Global Academy at The International Training Center in Chicago. In Sevagram she was a staff member of the village Human Development Training Institute.

Ellen Marie Rissky, finally, was a solitary. She lived her life in joyful obedience to God. Her life is now complete and will itself remain a part of the eternal love of God, being given back to the Mystery from which she came and to which she already belongs.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.