



## Anna R. Droste

May 6, 1925 - March 21, 2015

Dateline: Godfrey, IL

Anna Regina (Boucher) Droste, 89, died at 5:05pm Saturday, March 21, 2015 at Alton Memorial Hospital with many of her large family by her side.

Anna was born May 6, 1925 in North Alton to the late Joseph and Josepha Boucher. Hers was a difficult birth, about which she said “God was there and had plans for my life. I have always felt he took special care of me.”

She loved reading, helping her dad with chores, and spending time outside, especially in the fall. She hated wasting anything and, growing up during the Depression, was a master at appreciating and making full use of everything.

Anna met the love of her life, Benjamin Theodore Droste, through the local farm and church community. Anna and Ben were joined in Holy Matrimony by Mgr. James Suddes on August 16, 1945 at St. Mary’s Church in Alton. They shared 60 wonderful years together. Before Ben’s death in 2005, he and Anna wrote a book (“As I Recall”) together as a way to share their memories and experiences. It is a priceless gift of family history and memories for generations to come.

Anna and Ben were blessed with 16 children and she always said her greatest

treasure was her husband and her family. They are Ann Droste; Judy Boss (companion Donald Ornellas); Theresa (Bob) Dowell; Ben (Ruth) Droste; Tom Droste; Mike (Debbie) Droste; Jim (Sherry) Droste; Tony (Susan) Droste; Kathy (Karl) Doucleff; Jeanne (Mike) Rintoul; Donna (Russ) Hobson; Debbie Droste (fiancé Steve Carter); Bonnie (Vic) Welker; Tina (Andy) Mason and Jackie Droste. Their youngest son, Alan, died in 1987 at age 19. They also cared for Alan Edelen of Alton, whom they think of as another of their own children. Ben and Anna have also been blessed with 41 grandchildren and 47 great-grandchildren. Anna said, "We are very proud of every one of our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and see so much good in each of them."

In addition to her husband, parents and son, she was preceded in death by two grandsons (Nicholas Droste and Eric Droste) and seven siblings (Bernadine Masulla, Joseph Boucher, Louis Boucher, Bernice Sumowski, Loretta Mueller, Sister Alvina OSF, and Sister Cecilia OSF). She is survived by her younger brother Clarence Boucher.

Her husband Ben said before he passed: "Anna was the girl of my dreams. Her goodness, her wholesomeness, her joyful and pleasant disposition." Her entire family echoes this feeling.

And her own words reinforce this as well: "Being blessed with a strong healthy body and a good mind, life was pretty interesting as a whole. I truly enjoyed almost everything I did, and relished the challenge." She wrote this poem at age 14, which perfectly captures the outlook on life we all had the privilege to experience.

Sunshine, by Anna Boucher (age 14)

Carry a bundle of sunshine  
Around with you all day.

Hand it out with bits of joy  
In all you do and say.

Just a word of kindness  
When hearts are full of woe.  
Just a cheerful smile  
When spirits are ebbing low.

You will gladden life and make it  
Seem nearer to Paradise, too.  
For what you give to others, God returns  
A hundredfold to you.

Visitation will be from 4-8pm Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30am on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at St. Ambrose.

Burial will be at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Alton.

Memorials may be made to Marquette Catholic High School in Alton, St. Ambrose Special Education Religion Class, and BJC Hospice.

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Anna R. Droste*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Anna R. Droste*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *RIP in peace Aunt Anna you be missed*

**steven boucher** - March 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Hi Judy, So sorry for your loss. You & your family are in our thoughts & prayers.*

**Cindy & Brad Kipling** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Living in NC growing up, I always looked forward to seeing Aunt Ann, Uncle Ben and all my cousins every year on vacation. Yours is a beautiful family and I remember Aunt Ann's ready smile and gentle ways. Sending my sympathies to you today in your time of loss, and at the same time rejoicing in her new home in heaven with Jesus. God bless you all. Love, Diane Hesse.*

**Diane Hesse** - March 24, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Our deepest sympathies to the Droste family at this time. Mike says, "Some of the fondest memories in my childhood were spent with the Droste family." Peace be with you.

Patrick M. Boland & wife, Sharon E. Boland - March 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ Debbie, I am so sorry, your family is in my thoughts and prayers.

Ann (Lorsbach) Duckworth - March 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ My sympathy to all the family in your loss. I went to Sts. Peter & Paul school with Loretta, knew Ben when I worked at Metropolitan Bank and have had Jim's excellent carpenter work done here in my home. A quality family and good parents. Again, I am sorry for your loss.

Dee Weaver - March 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FO

“ Aunt Judy, to you and all your family, my prayers during your time of sorrow. May she rest in peace!

Father Godfrey Mullen, OSB - March 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CE

“ She truly was the most caring, & pleasant human being I have ever known! She was the epitome of a Christian, & a role model of how we all should be. Our condolences & prayers are with the family, because she will be deeply missed, but we all know she is at peace, & is making Heaven an even better place!

Carol & Lee Ettinger - March 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NR

“ To my dear friend, Bonnie, and the entire Droste family - I am so sorry for your loss. I always felt so welcome at the Droste home on Airport Road. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

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**Nancy (Crivello) Rynders** - March 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EV

“ What a lovely Lady Anna was. She was quite a "looker" with a "precious, sweet personality." I know that Jackie will miss her mom especially. Hang in there Jackie. We hope to give you hugs and help you smile at Family Camp in Sept. We are praying for all of you.

*Elaine and Your friends at Family Camp.*

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**Elaine Vonderheide** - March 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this sorrowful time. May God hold you in his arms and comfort you.  
With love and prayers  
The Mantooth Family

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**Butch and Lisa Mantooth** - March 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM