

Alleluia!

Sister M. Bonaventure Antl, O.S.F.



Born in Joliet, Illinois, on December 24, 1908, to John and Mary Tesarek Antl, Sister Bonaventure was baptized Mary Elizabeth at St. John's Church. She was the oldest of five children. Her sister Cecilia, our own Sister DePadua, is deceased, as well as two of her brothers, Joseph and Anthony, who died in infancy. Her brother John, who is Father Louis Antl, OFM, survives, along with many cousins, one of whom is Sister Lucille Adelman.

Mary graduated from St. John's Grade School and St. Francis Academy. She attended Assisi Junior College, now the University of St. Francis, before entering the postulancy on January 28, 1928. On August 12, 1928, Mary began her novitiate and received the name Sister Mary Bonaventure.

After first profession of vows on August 12, 1930, Sister Bonaventure began her 57 years as an educator. She served as teacher, principal, superior, and librarian at various schools in Illinois and Ohio. This included eight years at St. Procop in Cleveland, Ohio; 16 years at the public senior and junior high schools in Sigel, Illinois; and 26 years at her alma mater, St. Francis Academy.

Though Sister Bonaventure was known as a Spanish teacher, during her career she taught Latin, German, Spanish, English, Math, History, Religion and Journalism. At various times she also moderated the Mission Club, Sodality of Our Lady, language clubs and was advisor to a school newspaper and yearbook.

Sister Bonaventure loved her ministry of education and continually updated herself. Besides receiving a B.A. and M.A. from DePaul University, Chicago, she studied at St. Mary's in Winona, Minnesota, the University of Illinois and Columbia University in New York. In 1972 a "dream came true" when she spent five weeks studying at the University of

Madrid in Spain. Three years later, she took courses at the University of Valencia in Spain. Besides attending a bull fight, one of the highlights of these trips was visiting "Compostela, the shrine of St. James, the patron saint of Spain."

Besides teaching, Sister Bonaventure loved plants and gardening. As she once stated, her classroom always had a "collection of growing things in it" and once was "even dubbed the Jungle."

In 1987 Sister Bonaventure retired from teaching. She moved to Our Lady of Angels in 1988. Due to various health problems the past few years were difficult for Sister Bonaventure. She stayed as active as possible, tutored and spent many hours in prayer. She especially enjoyed her visits from her faithful brother, Father Louis.

On January 21, Sister Bonaventure went into a deep sleep and on Friday, January 26, surrounded by Father Louis and her sisters, she quietly and peacefully went home to her God.

Sister Bonaventure, we thank you for your 72 years of service as teacher, friend and sister. We thank you for showing us how to be patient, unassuming and accepting. As you begin your eternity with the God you so faithfully served, continue to remember us, your family, your friends, your Franciscan sisters. Amen! Alleluia!

Sister M. Bonaventure Antl, OSF
24 December 1908 - 26 January 2001

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Born: December 24, 1908, Joliet, Illinois
Parents: John and Mary (Tesarek) Antl
Entered From: St. John the Baptist, Joliet, Illinois
Postulancy: January 28, 1928
Novitiate: August 12, 1928
Profession: August 12, 1930
Entered New Life: Friday, January 26, 2001, at Our Lady of Angels at 10:50 p.m.

Ministry History

1930 - 1931 Teacher, Latin, English, Math; St. Peter's High School, Mansfield, OH
1931 - 1936 Teacher, Latin, German, English; St. Mary's H.S., Columbus, OH
1936 - 1949 Teacher, Latin, English, History; Sigel High School, Sigel, IL
1949 - 1952 Principal & Teacher, Latin, English, History; Sigel Jr. High School, Sigel, IL
1952 - 1957 Teacher, English, Latin, Spanish; St. Procop High School, Cleveland, OH
1957 - 1960 Principal/Teacher, Latin, Spanish; St. Procop High School, Cleveland, OH
1960 - 1987 Teacher, Latin, Spanish; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1984 - 1985 Educational Sabbatical; St. Francis Academy Residence, Joliet, IL
1987 - 1988 Special Ministry: St. Francis Academy Residence, Joliet, IL
1988 - 2001 Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Wake: Monday, January 29, 2001, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Wake Service: Monday, January 29, 2001, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Mass of Christian Burial: Monday, January 29, 2001, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Burial: Tuesday, January 30, 2001; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.
to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Interment S8 - L348 - G10

Survived by: A brother, Fr. Louis Antl, OFM and cousins including Sr. Lucille Adelmann OSF.

Rest in Peace, Sister Bonaventure