

Alleluia!

Sr. M. Clarasine Bahleda, OSF



Sister Clarasine Bahleda was born in Spangler, Pennsylvania on February 3, 1915, the youngest daughter of Lawrence and Mary (Novak) Bahle-da. At her baptism at St. John's Slovak Parish on February 14, 1915, she was given the name of Veronica.

After attending grade school and high school in Pennsylvania, Veronica entered the Sisters of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois on September 8, 1934. At her reception into the Novitiate on August 12, 1935, Veronica received the name of Sister Clarasine, the name she has kept throughout these years. Sister Clarasine professed her first vows in 1937 and her final vows in 1940.

Sister Clarasine's brothers Andrew, Joseph, Michael and Lawrence and her sisters Sister Aurelia, Sister Theotone (both members of our congregation) and Agnes all preceded her in death. She is survived by many nieces and nephews. Sister Clarasine has shared with us in *The Patchwork Quilt* that she was a young girl at the deathbed of her sister, Sister Theotone, who was dying of cancer at the age of 24. After being with and praying with Sister Theotone, Veronica looked at "Theo," as she was called by Veronica, and said, "Theo, I am going to join the convent." Theo looked at her lovingly and said, "Hon, I knew that all the time." According to Sister Clarasine's writing, these were the last words spoken by Sister Theotone before she died. Shortly after this, at the age of 19, Sister Clarasine did come to our congregation. Sister Clarasine has thought of this exchange with Sister Theotone and the experiences she has shared with Sister Aurelia many times in her life.

Sister Clarasine received her B.A. from the College of St. Francis and her M.A. from DePaul University. In addition, she did post graduate work and received a Library Science degree from Rosary College. Sister Clarasine taught upper grades in grade school before she began her 60-year career

teaching high school English. Of all the students she taught in Illinois and Ohio, she said that her most challenging were the young girls she taught and ministered to at Marybrook Academy in Ohio. She felt called to help them in so many ways. After her many years of teaching, Sister Clarasine was a Media Specialist and Librarian at St. Francis Academy in Joliet until she retired to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in 1990.

At OLA, Sister Clarasine continued to tutor individual students until 1997, and shared with them her love of learning and her knowledge of English. We have heard from so many of Sister Clarasine's colleagues that she was kind, industrious and charitable. This is so true. We have seen this and have shared so many happy moments with her. In addition to all the teaching and tutoring that Sister Clarasine did at OLA, she also had received boundless certificates for the endless hours of volunteer work that she did here. She was busy in so many aspects of the care of OLA. She added joy to many people and circumstances. We thank her for the ways she touched all with whom she came in contact.

In more recent years, Sister Clarasine's heart became weaker. And on Monday morning, Sister Clarasine returned to her God whom she served so faithfully and loved so dearly. Sister Clarasine, we ask our God to hold you gently in love. May you share peace and all good things with your family, friends and sisters who have gone before you and rejoice with you in heaven. We thank God for all that we learned from you and have experienced through you. Amen. Alleluia!

Sister M. Clarasine Bahleda, O.S.F.
3 February 1915 - 10 January 2005

Born: February 3, 1915; Spangler, PA
Parents: Lawrence J. and Mary (Novak) Bahleda
Entered From: St. John Baptist; Barnesboro, PA
Postulancy: September 8, 1934
Novitiate: August 12, 1935
Profession: August 12, 1940
Entered New Life: January 10, 2005, at Our Lady of Angels at 7:15 a.m.

Ministry History

1936-1937	Teacher; St. Joseph, Joliet, IL
1937-1940	Teacher; Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH
1940-1942	Teacher; St. Stephen, Streator, IL
1942-1943	Teacher; St. Mary, DesPlaines, IL
1943-1947	Teacher; St. Joseph, Joliet, IL
1947-1948	Teacher; Sacred Heart, Chicago, IL
1948-1949	Teacher; St. Boniface, Chicago, IL
1949-1951	Teacher; St. Mary School, DesPlaines, IL
1951-1956	Teacher; St. Mary, Columbus, OH
1956-1957	Teacher; Holy Family, Cleveland, OH
1957-1958	Teacher; St. Mary High School, Columbus, OH
1958-1961	Teacher; Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH
1961-1963	Teacher; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1963-1975	Teacher; St. Francis DeSales, Chicago, IL
1975-1976	Teacher; Joliet Catholic High School
1976-1990	Librarian; St Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1990-1995	Teaching/Tutor; Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
1995-1997	Special Ministry/Tutor; Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
1997-2005	Retired

Wake: Wednesday, January 12, 2005, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Prayer Service: Wednesday, January 12, 2005, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Mass of Christian Burial: Wednesday, January 12, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Burial: Thursday, January 13, 2005; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to
Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Interment: S8-L4-G5, Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL

Survived by: Numerous nieces and nephews and her Joliet Franciscan sisters.

Rest in Peace , Sister M. Clarasine