

Sister M. Victor Beniak



Born: September 21, 1902
Parents: Michael and Katherine (Gloviak) Beniak
Entered from: St. Procop Parish - Cleveland, OH
Postulancy: January 28, 1928
Novitiate: August 12, 1928
Profession: August 12, 1930
Died: Friday June 20, 1997 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home at 8:55 p.m.

Ministry:

January, 1930	Holy Cross, Joliet, IL, Grades 1 and 2
1930 - 1931	St. Wenceslas, Chicago, IL, Grades 1, 2 and 3
1931 - 1934	Holy Cross, Joliet, IL, Grades 1 and 2
1934 - 1935	St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 5
1935 - 1939	St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Grade 4
1939 - 1942	Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grades 4 and 5
1942 - 1949	SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Grades 4, 5, 6
1949 - 1950	St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 3
1950 - 1951	St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Grade 3
1951 - 1952	St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grades 3, 4
1952 - 1954	Sacred Heart, Chicago, IL, Grades 3 and 4
1954 - 1956	St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grades 3 and 4
1956 - 1962	St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grades 2, 3 and 4
1962 - 1964	Holy Family, Cleveland, OH, Grades 3 and 4
1964 - 1966	Imaculate Conception, Columbus, OH, Grade 3
1966 - 1968	St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grades 3 and 4
1968 - 1982	St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Food Service
1982 - 1997	Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL Tuesday, June 24, 1997
 2-7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
 Tuesday, June 24, 1997 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Wednesday, June 25, 1997 leaving Our Lady of Angels at 8:30 a.m.
 to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8 - L339 - G11

Survived by: her sister Victoria Chanda (Parma, OH) and nieces and nephews

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,
life is not ended, but merely changed.*

Sister Victor Beniak was born in Romania on September 21, 1902 to Michael and Katherine Beniak. She was baptized Margareta, but later went by the name of Michelina. When she was only two years old, she came to America. She spent her childhood days with her parents, her brother, Michael, and three sisters, Mary, Rose and Victoria. Although the family spent some time in Kansas, Michelina always considered St. Procop Parish in Cleveland as her parish. It was from their home in Cleveland that Michelina came to Joliet to become a postulant with the Joliet Franciscan Sisters on January 28, 1928.

On August 12, 1928, Michelina became a novice, receiving the name Sister Mary Victor. Already as a second year novice, Sister Victor was sent to Holy Cross Parish in Joliet to teach first and second grade. No doubt she was able to understand the Polish language spoken by many of the children's parents in that parish since her parents had also been born in Poland.

On August 12, 1930 Sister Victor professed her first vows. She loved her vocation and she loved her teaching. She was deeply appreciative of the kindness and companionship of the many sisters that she lived with during her long life as a Franciscan Sister. Sisters who knew Sister Victor described her as loving, caring, tolerant, prayerful, eager to learn, considerate, and appreciative.

After 37 years as an elementary teacher in various Catholic schools in Illinois and Ohio, Sister Victor began a new ministry of food service, taking care of the needs of her Sisters at St. Mary Parish in Des Plaines, Illinois. She continued in this ministry for fourteen years before coming to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in Joliet, following a back injury.

As a resident of Our Lady of Angels, she helped for many years with the work of stamp collecting and sorting. She always loved to read and felt that the stamps guided her in studying about other places in the world. Her room always had a special book and magazine corner. She was very inspired by the life and work of Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

During the past week Sister Victor's condition weakened and she prayed and reached out her arms to welcome the Lord whom she had served so lovingly all her life. Sisters and the nursing staff gathered around her bedside as Father Patrick Gleeson led the prayers for the dying. The singing and prayer continued as Sister Victor quietly took her last breath on the evening of June 20, 1997, on the eve of the Congregation Jubilee Day. For her Golden Jubilee in 1980, Sister Victor had written, "I have many golden memories of long service, teaching children to know Jesus Christ...and Yes, I rejoice with my classmates, too, because of Jesus' many daily showers of graces, which make this Jubilee possible."

Sister Victor we are grateful for the gift of your presence among us. May you continue to pray for us your Sisters, family, friends and students, as you now enter into the eternal Jubilee where you may enjoy the embrace of God's eternal love. Amen. Alleluia.

