



## *Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate*

On May 14, the Feast of St. Matthias, an Apostle chosen by God through other Apostles, Sister Marianne Cardosi was chosen to return to the Source of her being. Marianne's life began in Kankakee, Illinois, on March 21, 1930, the oldest of five children born to Judge Victor and Pauline (Mussa) Cardosi. She is preceded in death by her parents and her sister Joan Cardosi and survived by her two sisters, Paula and Jacquelyn and her brother Robert.

Her family attended St. Rose Parish in Kankakee. Marianne received her early education at St. Joseph Seminary Grade School and St. Joseph Seminary High School. Attending the College of St. Francis (University of St. Francis) in Joliet, Marianne, influenced by her father's love of history, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Education in 1951. Further studies took her to DePaul University in Chicago for a Master of Arts degree in History and to Olivet Nazarene University in Kankakee for a Master of Arts degree in English Education. Sister Marianne won a grant in 1969 for a summer program in American Studies at Northern Ohio University. She also attended the Franciscan Institute in Theology and Scripture at the College of St. Francis and Adult Education Courses at the University of Illinois.

Sister Marianne's ministry of teaching began before becoming a Sister of St. Francis. Her first year of teaching was at the Lafayette Elementary School in Kankakee in 1951-52. The then superintendent of Schools in Kankakee, E.L. Johnson, had this to say in a letter of recommendation for her: "As a beginner she took over a large class and handled it well. She should become an excellent teacher."

Perhaps influenced by the Sisters in her years at the College of St. Francis, Marianne responded to God's call and became a postulant. She entered the novitiate receiving the name Sister Mary Deborah. As a second year novice, Sister Deborah taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet. Making her first vows in 1955, she began her years of ministry in education at the secondary level in Joliet at St. Francis Academy from 1955-1959, making her final vows in 1958. Other educational experiences took her to high schools in Ohio, Chicago, and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Her last high school assignment was at St. Thomas Aquinas during the years 1967-1974. Sister Marianne served as Department Head and, with other faculty, developed an innovative program in American Studies and World Literature that included team teaching, modular scheduling and mini-courses. She writes of this experience: "Faculty and administration are not behind the times. Innovation is welcomed because we are concerned about the people we teach and the kind of education we provide for them. This has been our concern as we developed flexible modular scheduling and new electives thereby developing an atmosphere in which Christians can mature in a human, positive manner." During her years as a high school teacher, she admitted enjoying

# Alleluia!



*Sister Marianne Cardosi, OSF*

directing students in Forensics, perhaps again influenced by her father, the lawyer and judge.

During the last three years at St. Thomas, Sister Marianne began spending her summers in Kankakee as Coordinator of a summer tutorial program for elementary students. This experience may have awakened a new awareness of the need to help children and adults disadvantaged by economic structures. An opportunity arose when St. Clare House of Prayer in Kankakee announced the invitation for temporary membership, a time to experience the contemplative life and be renewed in spirit. Sister Marianne applied and was accepted as the first temporary member. During that year it seemed the Spirit of the Lord guided her mind and heart toward a new way of using her teaching skills. In 1975 she became Coordinator of Adult Education for Kankakee Community College with several off campus sites including Dr. King Center North, King Center South, Kankakee County Training Center and the Kankakee County Detention Center.

It was also during this time in Kankakee that Sister Marianne began caring for her elderly mother. As her mother became more frail, Marianne moved to the family home to care for her along with her many duties with adult education and her parish involvement in RCIA and Bible studies. Somehow she found time to work with younger children as well. She loved working with flowers, and God's creation often found her on solitary walks. Reading and doing crossword puzzles were also ways she received new energy for her ministry. Maybe there was something magic in the hats she wore!

After her mother's death, Sister Marianne herself began to decline and her health began to fail. Her dedication to the underserved people of Kankakee would take its toll and Marianne found it necessary to say good-bye to the people and work she had so grown to love.

All who knew her will remember her for her intense and loving dedication to education. When she moved to Our Lady of Angels, she brought her hats, but more importantly, she brought her gentle, quiet spirit. Sister Marianne, you have taught us much and we thank you. May God's gentle love now surround you for all eternity. Amen. Alleluia.

## *Sister Marianne Cardosi*

*March 21, 1930 — May 14, 2014*

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| <i>Born:</i>             | March 21, 1930                                |
| <i>Parents:</i>          | Victor N. Cardosi and Pauline (Mussa) Cardosi |
| <i>Postulancy:</i>       | September 2, 1952                             |
| <i>Novitiate:</i>        | August 13, 1953                               |
| <i>First Profession:</i> | August 12, 1955                               |
| <i>Final Profession:</i> | August 13, 1958                               |
| <i>Entered New Life:</i> | May 14, 2014                                  |

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### **Ministry History**

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| 1954-1955 | Teacher: Grade 6; Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet, Illinois  |
| 1955-1959 | Teacher: Religion, Civics, History, Red-Cross; St. Francis Academy, Joliet  |
| 1959-1961 | Teacher: English, Biology, Personal Economics, Religion; Housemother: Marybrook Academy, Maumee, Ohio   |
| 1961-1962 | Teacher: Latin and World History; Attendance Clerk; Guidance, St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, Illinois   |
| 1962-1963 | Teacher: St. Mary's High School, Columbus, Ohio   |
| 1963-1964 | Teacher: Religion, English, American History, Religion: Marybrook Academy, Maumee   |
| 1964-1967 | Teacher: American and World History, Speech, Forensics, Religion; Cardinal Gibbons High School, Fort Lauderdale, Florida  |
| 1967-1974 | Teacher: U.S. History, Religion, American Studies; Chair of Social Studies Department; Head of Religion Department; Supervisor of Resource Center: St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Louisville, Ohio |
| 1974-1975 | Sabbatical  |
| 1975-1984 | Director of Adult Education Center: Dr. King Center; Kankakee, Illinois   |
| 1984-1985 | Coordinator of Outreach Sites: Dr. King Center Outreach/Kankakee Community College, Kankakee, Illinois  |
| 1985-1993 | Coordinator of Adult Education; Dr. King Center / Kankakee Community College, Kankakee  |
| 1993-1997 | Adult Education Instructor: Kankakee County Training Center for the Disabled, Kankakee  |
| 1997-2005 | Instructor: Kankakee County Training Center for the Disabled, Bradley, Illinois   |
| 2005-2008 | Instructor: ABE/GED: KKK Training Center for the Disabled, Bradley  |
| 2008-2014 | Community Service: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet   |

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| <i>Wake:</i>                     | Monday, May 19, 2014, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  |
| <i>Prayer Service:</i>           | Monday, May 19, 2014, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet   |
| <i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i> | Monday, May 19, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet   |
| <i>Burial:</i>                   | Tuesday, May 20, 2014, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois |
| <i>Interment:</i>                | Section 8, Lot 361, Grave 10, Resurrection Cemetery   |
| <i>Predeceased by:</i>           | By her parents, Victor N. Cardosi and Pauline (Mussa) Cardosi and her sister Joan                             |
| <i>Survived by:</i>              | Her brother Robert (Pat) and sisters, Paula and Jacquelyn   |

*Rest in Peace, Sister Marianne*