

Sister Mary Therese Didier, O.S.F. (Aloysius Marie)



- Born:** October 10, 1935
Parents: Aloysius and Emma (Geimer) Didier
Entered from: Holy Cross, Prairie View, IL
Postulancy: September 4, 1951
Novitiate: August 12, 1952
Profession: August 12, 1954
- Died:** Monday, March 22, 1999 in Mauston, WI at 4 p.m. enroute
 by car to Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
- Ministry:**
 1954 - 1955 St. Michael, Sigel, IL, Grades 3, 4
 1955 - 1957 St. Bernard, Joliet, IL, Grade 3
 1957 - 1959 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Grade 1
 1959 - 1961 St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Grade 1
 1961 - 1963 St. Coleman, Pampano Beach, FL, Grade 1
 1963 - 1965 St. Mary, Fairfield, AL, Grade 1
 1965 - 1967 St. Michael, Brunswick, MI, Grades 1-2
 1967 - 1970 St. Cyril, Chicago, IL, Grade 1, 2
 1970 - 1973 St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Grade 5
 1973 - 1982 St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Parish Religious Education,
 Religious Education Coordinator
 1982 - 1984 St. Mary, Sterling, IL, Grades 1, 2
 1984 - 1991 St. Mary, Sterling, IL, Pastoral Associate
 1991 - 1994 Office of Pastoral Planning, Dubuque, IA, Associate Director
 1994 - 1997 Archdiocese of Dubuque, Dubuque IA, Director, Office of
 Adult Catechesis/Evangelization
 1997 - 1999 St. Philip the Apostle, Green Bay, WI, Pastoral Associate
- Wake:** Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL Friday, March 26, 1999
 2-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.
- Mass of Christian Burial:** Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
 Friday, March 26, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.
- Burial:** Saturday, March 27, 1999 leaving Our Lady of Angels at
 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL,
 S8-L354-G12
- Survived by:** her sisters, brothers and in-laws, Sister Johanna Didier, Sister Peter
 Didier, Lorraine (Leroy) Schuetz, Marcella (Les) Merriman,
 Jerome (Pat) Didier, Barbara (Ed) Flynn, Paul (Lisa) Didier,
 Albert Krueger, Dolores Didier, Mary Sue Didier, Virginia Didier
 and many nieces and nephews

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

Sister Mary Therese Didier was born in Des Plaines, Illinois on October 10, 1935, to Aloysius and Emma Geimer Didier, and was baptized at St. Mary's Church in Des Plaines on October 21, 1935. She was the twelfth of 14 children, having six brothers and seven sisters. After completing her elementary education, she attended St. Francis Academy in Joliet, as an aspirant of the Congregation of Joliet Franciscan Sisters.

On September 4, 1951, Mary Therese became a postulant with the Joliet Franciscan Sisters where three of her older sisters, Sister Ambrose, Sister Johanna and Sister Peter, were already professed members of the Congregation. Mary Therese received the Franciscan habit as a novice and was given the name, Sister Aloysius Marie, but later returned to using her Baptismal name. Following first profession of vows on August 12, 1954 Sister Aloysius Marie began her ministry as a primary teacher in Sigel, Illinois. She also taught in schools in Joliet and Chicago as well as in Florida, Alabama and Michigan. Her days in Alabama, during the unrest of the 60's were chronicled in "From Tuxedo Junction to Christ, A History of the Accomplishments of the Passionist Missions in Alabama."

As St. Boniface Parish in Chicago, Mary was active in recruiting and training catechists, and was involved in the newly emerging ministry to the Hispanic population in Chicago. Sister Mary then moved to St. Mary's in Sterling, Illinois, where she taught and served as a Pastoral Minister. In 1991 Sister Mary worked for the Diocese of Dubuque in the Office of Pastoral Planning and later as the Director of Adult Catechesis/Evangelization. Less than two years ago Mary moved to Green Bay, Wisconsin to serve as a Pastoral Associate at St. Philip the Apostle Church. Her personal contact and her warm approach with people enflashed the ideals of evangelization that she had helped others to do during her days in Dubuque.

On New Year's Day of 1999, Sister Mary reflected with the Congregation at St. Philip in Green Bay about the fullness of time, "All of us are gifted by God with various amounts of time," she said. "I carry within my body a disease which reminds us of the uncertainty of that time, but the truth is none of us knows how much time we have left." During these months, Mary tried to live in the fullness of time, working with the medical staff at Mayo Clinic to stop the growth of the cancer within her body. Her family, her Franciscan Sisters and her friends remained close to her during this time. In the midst of this, Mary also preached a sermon, living the words that she preached, "Through our life, our words, our actions, our attitudes, Christ can be experienced once again."

On Monday, March 22, 1999 Mary Therese spent time with her sister Johanna, who had just arrived from Brazil, before beginning a trip for treatment at Mayo's. Sister Peter accompanied her as Sister Jeremy drove on that journey. While they were still in Wisconsin, Mary's trip took on a new destination - that of returning home to God, as she peacefully drew her final breath with her sister at her side.

Mary Therese, we thank you for the twinkle in your eye that spoke of your insight and simple wisdom to draw us closer to God. Pray for us, your family, your friends, and your Franciscan sisters that we may be guided by God's wisdom in our life choices. May you live in God's company, forever. Amen. Alleluia.

