

Alleluia!

Sister Miriam Jo Eckelkamp, OSF

Sister Miriam Jo's life adventures began in Washington, Missouri, where she was born to Mary Ann Straatman Eckelkamp and William Eckelkamp on January 26, 1915. She was given the name Hilda, the name that many of her nieces and nephews still call her. Hilda was one of ten children. She was baptized at St. Francis Borgia Parish and attended grade school there. Hilda then came to the Prep in Joliet, Illinois, attending St. Francis Academy. She became a postulant in 1934, and a novice in 1935 at which time she received the name Sister Miriam Joseph, which she later shortened to Sister Miriam Jo. In 1937 Sister Miriam Jo professed her first vows and in 1940 she professed her final vows.

Sister Miriam Jo loved adventure and challenges. Though she did receive her Bachelor's degree at the College of St. Francis and her Masters' degree from St. John College of Cleveland, Ohio (affiliated with Catholic University), she studied at many centers of learning, earning credits at De Paul, the University of Illinois, Marquette University, the University of Colorado, Ohio State University and Loyola University. She loved learning and wanted to soak in as much as she could. Many years of her career were spent as a High School teacher of English and Journalism. She was also very involved in conducting school plays and musicals, working with the yearbook and newspaper staffs, and writing articles for various publications. One could find an article by her in *HiTime* such as "You Have the Whole World in Your Hands," or in the *Franciscan Herald* where she wrote about Mother Alfred Moes, or in the magazine *Operation Politics*. The dissertation written for her Master's degree was entitled "Selections from the Fioretti: To Teach Differentiation Between Legend and History." In addition to writing, Sister Miriam Jo enjoyed reading, crocheting, listening to music, attending cultural events and traveling. In fact, Miriam herself told of visiting every state as well as Canada, Greece and Mexico. She had wanderlust



and enjoyed seeing new places and experiencing various cultures. But of all her hobbies, she wrote that her most favorite hobby was "life itself." She found every day, every person, every experience a new sparkle in her life. She loved being able to be and to do. We know of her willingness to help in any way that she could. She was fun to be with and shared her stories with those who were eager to listen.

When Sister Miriam Jo retired from full time teaching, she was involved in other ways, such as being an Assistant Librarian, Assistant to the Dean of Students, Media Center Aide, or tutoring adult students through ESL or other programs. She was known and remembered throughout Illinois and Ohio but in her words, her most favorite place was at St. Mary High School in Columbus, Ohio. As she said, "We made the old, dilapidated school and convent a place of love and community." Even until very recently, the students from Columbus kept in touch with her.

Sister Miriam Jo, we thank you for all the joy you brought to each of our lives. We pray for your three living brothers, William, John Paul, and Father David and all your relatives who mourn you. We pray for your living classmates, Sisters Marie Schramko, Mary Tikva, Geraldine Rowan, Martin Hornak, and Loretta Wagner that they may be filled with peace. We can imagine the reunion in heaven with your parents and siblings who have preceded you, Father Joe, Louis, Joseph, Martha, Ceal and Rose. We ask you to watch over us, your sisters, your relatives and friends that we may be the people God wants us to be. We thank you and we wish you peace forever and ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Sister Miriam Jo Eckelkamp, OSF

January 26, 1915 — December 31, 2006

<i>Born:</i>	January 26, 1915 in Washington, MO
<i>Parents:</i>	William Eckelkamp and Mary Ann (Straatmann) Eckelkamp
<i>Postulancy:</i>	October 22, 1934
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1935
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1937
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 12, 1940
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	December 31, 2006

Ministry History

1937-1940	Student: College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1940-1942	Teacher: English, German, St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL and Substitute Teacher: Latin, SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL
1942-1946	Teacher: High School Subjects, Sacred Heart-Englewood, Chicago, IL
1946-1948	Teacher: High School Subjects, St. Peter, Mansfield, OH
1948-1950	Teacher: High School Subjects, St. Mary, Columbus, OH
1950-1952	Teacher: English, Journalism, Religion, St. Peter, Mansfield, OH
1952-1953	Teacher: High School Subjects, SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL
1953-1958	Teacher: High School Subjects, St. Mary, Columbus, OH
1958-1959	Teacher: English, Journalism, St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL
1959-1963	Teacher: English, Journalism, St. Peter High School, Mansfield, OH
1963-1965	Teacher: English, Religion, Dance, St. Procopius, Chicago, IL
1965-1966	Teacher: English, Speech, Journalism, SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL
1966-1967	Teacher: English, Religion, Journalism, Bishop Ready, Columbus, OH
1967-1969	Teacher: High School Subjects, SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL
1969-1974	Teacher: English, Religion, Speech, St. Procopius, Chicago, IL
1974-1978	Teacher, part-time: English, Providence High School, New Lenox, IL
1975-1977	Director of Communications, part-time, Motherhouse, Joliet, IL
1978-1988	Assistant Librarian, Assistant to Dean, Media Center Aide, Joliet Catholic High School, Joliet, IL
1988-1990	Library Assistant, St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1990-1994	Adult Tutor, St. Joseph School, Rockdale, IL
1994-2003	Tutor / Development Office Researcher, St. Francis Convent
2003-2006	Retired

<i>Wake:</i>	Thursday, January 4, 2007, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Wake Service:</i>	Thursday, January 4, 2007, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial</i>	Thursday, January 4, 2007, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial</i>	Friday, January 5, 2007, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
<i>Interment:</i>	S8-L6-G6 Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents, William and Mary Ann (Straatmann) Eckelkamp; sisters, Cecilia, Rose (Ralph) Shay and Martha (Frank) Puzauski; and brothers, Joseph, Louis (Martha) and Rev. Joseph C., OFM.
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her brothers, William (Helen), John Paul (Marion) and Rev. David, OFM; Nieces, Nephews; and her Joliet Franciscan sisters.

Rest in Peace, Sister Miriam Jo