

Sister M. Dora Ficik, O.S.F.

769



Born: May 8, 1902  
Parents: Paul and Mary (Krasnansky) Ficik  
Entered from: St. Joseph Parish, Beaverdale, PA  
Postulancy: February 4, 1935  
Novitiate: August 12, 1935  
Profession: August 12, 1937

Died: Tuesday, August 4, 1998 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home  
at 5:50 p.m.

Ministry:

1937 - 1941 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Food Service  
1941 - 1963 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Food Service  
1963 - 1970 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Food Service  
1970 - 1977 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Food Service  
1977 - 1982 All Saints Interparochial School, Wickliffe, OH, Food Service  
1982 - 1985 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Retired  
1985 - 1998 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL Friday, August 7, 1998  
2-7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
Friday, August 7, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Saturday, August 8, 1998 leaving Our Lady of Angels at  
9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL,  
S8-L337-G4

Survived by: her sisters Rose Krivinsky (Elizabeth, NJ), Julia Prenchak  
(Johnstown, PA), Margaret Burnett (Johnstown, PA),  
Elizabeth Handzo (Elizabeth, NJ) and many nieces and nephews

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

Sister Dora Ficik was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on May 8, 1902 to Paul and Mary Ficik. Three days later she was taken to St. Stephen Church in Johnstown where she was baptized Maria, although her family called her Mary Louise. She was the oldest of seven children with one brother, Paul and five sisters: Anna Florence, Rose, Julia, Margaret and Elizabeth. The family were active parishioners of St. Joseph Church in Beavertown, Pennsylvania and the children attended the local grammar school.

When Mary Louise was 32 years old, she came to Joliet where she became a postulant with the Franciscan Sisters on February 12, 1935. On August 12<sup>th</sup> of that same year, Mary Louise received the Franciscan habit as a novice and was given the name of Sister Mary Dora.

After her first profession of vows on August 12, 1937, Sister Dora began her ministry of food service and domestic work at Corpus Christi Parish in Columbus. In 1941, Sister Dora was transferred to the College of St. Francis where she was renowned for her outstanding talent in food preparation. During her twenty-two years at CSF Sister Dora, who had come from a family of chefs, demonstrated her ability in the art of food preparation and planning. Sister Dora had a gift for preparing exquisite meals on a frugal budget. She was known to bargain with the food brokers, and to order cuts of meat that were delectable, but affordable. She took great pride in both the preparation and the presentation of the food and always insisted that it be served piping hot. Sister Dora also worked in food service at Our Lady of Angels and the Motherhouse, as well as at All Saints Interparochial School in Wickliffe, OH, before retiring at the Motherhouse.

Those who lived with Sister Dora knew of her avid love of reading, and of keeping up with national and international news. The information and insight Sister Dora gleaned from her reading promoted many stimulating conversations and discussions with her colleagues. Her love of prayer and her devotion to the Eucharist led her to spend many hours in prayer at the motherhouse chapel and later in the chapel at OLA. Sister Dora had a deep love and devotion to the Blessed Mother. The statue of Our Lady had a place of honor in every kitchen in which Sister Dora worked. The life of Mary was an inspiration to Sister Dora, who served as a homemaker for so many.

In 1985 when she was in need of greater care, Sister Dora moved to Our Lady of Angels. During this time, as so often during her life, her good friend Sister Emilita Chuba spent much time praying, visiting, and recalling "old times" together. On Tuesday afternoon, August 4<sup>th</sup>, Sister Emilita came with her usual afternoon treat for Sister Dora. When Emmy tried to rouse Sister Dora from her sleep, Dora did not respond. The nursing staff realized Sister Dora was slipping fast. Sister Emilita stayed by her side as the other sisters and Father Patrick Gleeson gathered to pray. At 5:50 p.m., when many of the sisters were gathered for the evening meal, Sister Dora peacefully made her journey to God to share in the eternal banquet.

Sister Dora, we thank you for the witness of service your life has given us. As you now are invited to be seated at God's heavenly table forever, pray for us, your family members, friends, and your Franciscan sisters. Help us to serve the needs of others in love. May you enjoy the beauty of God's presence forever. Amen. Alleluia.

