



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

On Sunday, September 14, 2014, the feast of the Exultation of the Cross, as the words of John's Gospel echoed in churches throughout the world, our sister, Anne Flaska, passed peacefully into eternal life at the age of 94. Drawn by the God who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son," Anne clung faithfully to the conviction that "everyone who believes in God will not perish but will have eternal life (Jn 3:16)."

Born on December 6, 1922, the feast of St. Nicholas, Anne was lovingly welcomed into the world by her parents Mary (Turkan) and John Flaska. Raised on the near north side of Chicago, Anne was one of six children and a most energetic member of her hard-working and faith-filled family. Ever mindful of her immigrant roots, Anne embraced her Slovak cultural heritage with great enthusiasm, pride and joy. Educated at Sacred Heart School (Oakley & Huron Streets), she took advantage of every opportunity made available to her. It was at Sacred Heart that Anne's lifelong passion for teaching was inspired, nurtured and encouraged.

From an early age, Anne was attentive to God's action in her life. Recalling her Franciscan vocation story, she recounted how it happened - literally - overnight. On Friday, August 12, 1937, at the age of 16, she experienced the presence of Jesus inviting her to take to heart the words "You have not chosen me, I have chosen You." Without any hesitation or second thoughts, Anne responded generously and wholeheartedly to the call that she received. Immediately, she confided her intention to enter the convent to Sr. Clarine, a cherished mentor. She then proceeded to tell her parents. Though Anne's father received the news of her unfolding future with some well-founded paternal reserve, her mother readily recognized and affirmed the call that brought her daughter so much joy. Within three weeks time, Anne was packed and on her way to Joliet, Illinois. Leaving behind McKinley High School, she readied herself for convent life, hoping the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate would happily receive another Flaska into the community in addition to Anne's sister, Sr. M. Cyrinus.

# Alleluia!



*Sister Anne Flaska, OSF*

Anne entered the Postulancy on September 6, 1937. She was received into the Novitiate a year later on August 12, 1938, and given the religious name, Sr. M. Consuela. On August 12, 1940, she professed her First Vows and began her 70-year career in the ministry of teaching, most of which was spent in the primary grades. Because of her expertise in the Slovak language, she was able to translate English pre-school religion lessons into Slovak at Assumption Parish in Chicago and taught the Slovak language and culture to young children in Chicago. Sharing her love of learning with children in Pennsylvania, Alabama, Ohio and Illinois, Anne gave new meaning to the title "master teacher." Building confidence in her students as she fostered self-esteem and self-respect, Anne helped to enlarge and preserve their capacities for wonder and amazement. Preparing generation after generation for lives of faith, hope and love, Anne leaves behind an unforgettable legacy of excellence in instruction, curriculum and administration.

Deeply committed to using her "talents for others in a simple life style," Anne gave expression to her Franciscan life every day, attributing her love and service to the grace of God. A gifted artist, known for her skillful handwork in crochet and embroidery, Anne also loved to sing and to make the most of an occasional card game. Living life with an eye to the future, Anne was truly blessed to receive glimpses of the glory of the Lord revealed in the faces of the children and adults who looked to her, amidst their own vulnerability, with enormous gratitude and affection.

May our Sister Anne experience the Lord's glory in its fullness – now and forever. Amen! Alleluia!

# *Sister Anne Flaska*

*December 6, 1919 — September 14, 2014*

*Born:* December 6, 1922  
*Parents:* John Flaska and Mary (Turcan) Flaska  
*Postulancy:* September 6, 1937  
*Novitiate:* August 12, 1938  
*First Profession:* August 12, 1940  
*Final Profession:* August 12, 1943  
*Entered New Life:* September 14, 2014

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## **Ministry History**

1940-1941 Teacher: Grade 3; St. Stephen, Johnstown, Pennsylvania  
1941-1946 Teacher: Grade 2, SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, Illinois  
1946-1947 Teacher: Grade 3, St. Pascal, Chicago  
1947-1948 Teacher: Kindergarten, St. Francis Xavier, Chicago  
1948-1950 Teacher: Kindergarten, St. Mary, Fairfield, Alabama  
1950-1954 Teacher: Grades 1, 2, 3, St. Francis Xavier, Chicago  
1954-1955 Teacher: Grade 1, St. Mary, Fairfield, Alabama  
1955-1956 Teacher: Grade 1, SS. Cyril and Methodius, Chicago  
1956-1957 Teacher: Grade 1, Immaculate Conception, Toledo, Ohio  
1957-1958 Teacher: Grade 1, St. Mary, Des Plaines, Illinois  
1958-1960 Teacher: St. Joseph, Joliet, Illinois  
1960-1963 Teacher: Grades 1, 2, St. Mary, Rock Island, Illinois  
1963-1966 Teacher: Grade 1, Corpus Christi, Columbus, Ohio  
1966-1968 Teacher: Grade 1, Divine Savior, Chicago  
1968-1969 Teacher: Grade 2, Sacred Heart, Hubbard Woods, Illinois  
1970-1989 Teacher: Grade 1, Fulton School, Chicago  
1989-1990 Parish Secretary: St. Francis Xavier, Chicago  
1990-1992 Substitute Teacher: Chicago  
1992-1994 Substitute Teacher and Tutor: Resurrection Catholic Academy, Chicago  
1994-1995 Substitute Teacher: Resurrection Catholic Academy, Chicago  
1995-1996 Substitute Teacher/Director of Reading Program: Resurrection Catholic Academy, Chicago  
1996-1997 Director of Morning School, Primary Reading Program, Volunteer Sacristan: Resurrection Catholic Academy, Chicago  
  
1998-2001 Director: Motherhouse Education Programs, Motherhouse, Joliet  
2001-2003 Director: Motherhouse Education Programs, Motherhouse and Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
2003-2006 Private Tutor: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
2006-2009 Private Tutor / Sacristan: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
2009-2011 Private Tutor: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
2011-2014 Contemplative Prayer Life: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

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*Wake:* Friday, September 19, 2014, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Prayer Service:* Friday, September 19, 2014, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Mass of Christian Burial:* Friday, September 19, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Burial:* Saturday, September 20, 2014, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois  
*Interment:* Section 8, Lot 358, Grave 6, Resurrection Cemetery  
*Predeceased by:* By her parents, John and Mary (Turcan) Flaska, sisters, Mildred Tylka, Sr. Mary Cyrinus, Irene Rose, and brothers Rev. Joseph Flaska, SVD and Frank Flaska  
*Survived by:* Her nieces and nephews

*Rest in Peace, Sister Anne*