

Sister M. Emeran Foley, O.S.F.

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Born: January 27, 1915  
Parents: Joseph and Mary E. (van Horn)  
Entered from: St. Agnes, Ashland, WI  
Postulancy: September 9, 1930  
Novitiate: August 12, 1931  
Profession: August 12, 1933  
Died: Saturday, June 20, 1998 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home,  
Joliet, IL at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Ministry:

1933 - 1934 College of St. Francis, Student  
1934 - 1944 St. Mary High School, Columbus, OH, Geometry, Physics, German,  
Religion, Biology, assisted with sign language at Deaf Mute  
Institute, advanced Math, Chemistry  
1944 - 1969 College of St. Francis, Professor, Chemistry Department  
1969 - 1973 St. Augustine College, Professor, Chemistry  
1973 - 1975 St. Catherine, Sebring, FL, Tutor, Parish work  
1975 - 1977 College of St. Francis, Professor, Chemistry  
1977 - 1985 Crosier, Seminary, Onamia, MN, Professor, Chemistry  
1985 - 1987 St. Francis Convent, Tutor  
1987 - 1988 St. Charles Pastoral Center, Romeoville, IL, Library  
1988 - 1993 St. Joseph School, Rockdale, IL, Teacher in GED program  
1993 - 1996 St. John, Joliet, IL, volunteer  
1996 - 1998 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Thursday, June 25, 1998  
2-7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
Thursday, June 25, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Friday, June 26, 1998 leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.  
to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8 - L337 - G5

Survived by: her sister Patricia Ann Gilbert (Indian Rock Beach, FL), her niece  
Sister Clare LaPointe, (Sisters of St. Francis, Joliet, IL), and many  
nieces and nephews

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

Sister Emeran Foley was born to Mary E. Van Horn (See) Foley and Joseph P. Foley in Ashland, Wisconsin on January 27, 1915, and was baptized Clare Gladys. She attended St. Agnes elementary school and was a charter member of De Padua High School Class of 1932. At the end of her sophomore year, she left her parents, brothers and sisters to enter the Franciscan Congregation of the Sisters in Joliet, Illinois.

She was received into the community in August 1931 and received the name Sister M. Emeran. After completing her B.A. at the College of St. Francis, she taught at St. Mary's High School in Columbus, Ohio for eight years.

In 1944 Sister Emeran began her work as a chemistry professor at the College of St. Francis in Joliet. In 1956 she was awarded a doctoral degree in biochemistry from the University of Illinois. In 1969 Sister Emeran joined the faculty of St. Augustine College in Raleigh, North Carolina, and returned to the College of St. Francis in 1975. In September 1977 Sister Emeran continued her teaching ministry at Crosier Seminary High School and Junior College in Onamia, Minnesota. Her students and colleagues recognized Sister Emeran for her creative approach in educational endeavors. The College of St. Francis honored her with the status of professor emeritus in 1978.

Besides her expertise as an educator, Sister Emeran also had other gifts that surfaced in various ways. During her time in Raleigh, North Carolina, Sister Emeran and Sister Euthale Schlessler developed some of their culinary skills, and often shared meals and desserts with other faculty members and some of their students. Some of their favorite recipes were published in a news article. During their tenure at Crosier College in Onamia, these gifts were shared. In an outreach of Franciscan hospitality, the hearts of many were touched.

The family of Sister Emeran knew of her love and devotion to them. Arnie, her brother, became a Franciscan priest, known as Father Ronan, and her niece, Sister Clare LaPointe also became a Joliet Franciscan Sister. Through letters, and with a support of prayer, Sister Emeran tried to keep up all the family connections even though miles and duties tended to keep them apart.

In Sister Emeran there was a blend of chemist and poet, of mystic and planner. Often as part of her prayer and reflection, usually during a time of retreat, Sister Emeran was inspired to pen her reflections in the form of poetry.

In 1996 Sister Emeran moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. Even as her strength waned in her final weeks, she maintained a spirit of peace and union with her God. Sister Emeran's life of union with God here on earth drew to a close, as she quietly left this world on Saturday evening, June 20 to live forever in union with God to whom she had dedicated her whole life.

Sister Emeran, we thank you for your dedicated service as educator. We ask you to continue to pray for us, your family, your friends and your Franciscan Congregation, that we may walk in truth and live in justice. May you enjoy a life of never ending joy with God forever. Amen. Alleluia.

