

Alleluia!

Sister M. Florette Freimann, O.S.F.



Born in Chicago, Illinois, on July 9, 1907, to Nicholas and Anna Marie Kirchen Freimann, Sister Florette was one of 14 children. On July 14 in St. Raphael's Church, she was baptized Victoria Dorothy and was called Dorothy or Dora at home. The family consisted of seven boys, John, Philip, Augustine, Joseph, Edward, Charles and Anthony, and seven girls, Clara, Magdaline, Anna Theresa, Victoria, Agnes, Miriam and Gertrude. There were three sets of twins in the family, including Sister Florette and her twin Anna. Two of her sisters, Clara and Gertrude, joined the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Congregation, and her brother Augustine was a diocesan priest.

At the age of 21, Dora entered the postulancy and on August 12, 1929, she was received into the novitiate and given the name Sister Mary Florette. After first profession in 1931, Sister Florette began her 57 years as a teacher in the primary grades. She served schools in Alabama, Illinois and Ohio.

Sister Florette had a special love for working with the poor and with minorities. In 1963, she volunteered to be one of our first missionaries in Brazil. She taught in Fairfield, Alabama, in the early 60's during the critical years of the civil rights movement. She remembers being told to leave a drug store because she was in the company of a black parishioner. Sister Florette told the clerk, "If this is the way it's going to be, then you won't have my business to count on any longer." At St. Ludmilla's in Chicago, Sister Florette taught English to children who came from Mexico and "loved them dearly."

In 1989 Sister Florette came to the Motherhouse where she tutored for the St. Francis Education Center. Among other things, she also gave her time

at the Housing Authority of Joliet's Fairview Center tending the children of mothers attending classes.

After eight years Sister Florette moved to Our Lady of Angels. She continued her caring ways with the residents. How often she sat at the bedside of a seriously sick or dying sister! Last Saturday, Sister Florette was taken to the hospital because of chest and abdominal pain. While trying to get out of bed by herself, she fell and broke her hip. Surgery went well, and she seemed to be recovering, but Wednesday morning, November 15, with Sister David Ann at her side, Sister Florette completed her earthly journey.

When Sister Florette celebrated her Diamond Jubilee, she talked about how when she was young she resisted her calling but that eventually, "the caring and sensitivity of the women in the Congregation made her realize that religious life would fulfill her life's ambitions." She went on to say, "I've always felt wonderful, blest and cared for in this community."

Sister Florette, there are many who felt blest because you loved and cared for them. We thank you for sharing your life and your gifts with us these 71 years. May you continue to remember us, your family, your friends and your Franciscan Sisters. Amen. Alleluia!

Sister M. Florette Freimann, OSF
9 July 1907 - 15 November 2000

Born: July 9, 1907, Chicago, Illinois
Parents: Nicholas and Anna Marie (Kirchen) Freimann
Entered From: St. Raphael, Chicago, Illinois
Postulancy: September 3, 1928
Novitiate: August 12, 1929
Profession: August 12, 1931
Entered New Life: Wednesday, November 15, 2000, at St. Joseph Medical Center at 10:20 a.m.

Ministry History

1931 - 1938 Teacher, Grades 2,3; St. Mary, Columbus, OH
 1938 - 1941 Resident Prefect; Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, OH
 1941 - 1944 Domestic Work; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lillyville, IL
 1944 - 1946 Domestic Work and Teacher, Grade 2; St. Bernard, Joliet, IL
 1946 - 1951 Teacher, Grades 2,3; St. Joseph, Freeport, IL
 1951 - 1952 Teacher, Grades 1,2, 3, 4; St. Joseph, Manhattan, IL
 1952 - 1954 Teacher, Grades 2,3; St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL
 1954 - 1957 Teacher, Grade 2; St. Joseph, Freeport, IL
 1957 - 1960 Teacher, Grade 2; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL
 1960 - 1965 Teacher, Grade 2; St. Mary, Fairfield, AL
 1965 - 1966 Teacher, Grade 2; St. Cyril, Chicago, IL
 1966 - 1968 Teacher, Grade 2; Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL
 1968 - 1970 Teacher, Grade 2; St. Ann, Lansing, IL
 1970 - 1971 Teacher, Grade 2; St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL
 1971 - 1973 Teacher, Grade 1; Sacred Heart, Chicago, IL
 1973 - 1989 Teacher, Grade 1, Tutoring and Family Ministry; St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL
 1989 - 1997 Tutoring; St. Francis Education Center (Motherhouse), Joliet, IL
 1997 - 2000 Retired, Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Wake: Friday, November 17, 2000, 2 - 5:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wake Service: Friday, November 17, 2000, 4:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels
Mass of Christian Burial: Saturday, November 18, 2000, 9:30 a.m., Our Lady of Angels
Burial: Saturday, November 18, 2000; following the Mass of Christian Burial
 to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Interment S8-L335-G2, Resurrection Cemetery

Survived by: Nieces and Nephews and their children.

Rest in Peace, Sister Florette