

Alleluia!

Sister Nicolette Galik, OSF



Sister Nicolette Galik was born on September 19, 1902, to the late Victoria and Andrew Galik in Orbisonia, Pennsylvania. Baptized Catherine at St. Mary Church in Shade Valley, Pennsylvania, she was one of seven children born to these Slovak immigrants from Austria-Hungary. She was preceded in death by her siblings: her brother Andrew, and five sisters, Sophie, Ann, Verne, Victoria and Mary. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Catherine entered our Congregation on August 14, 1919, and professed first vows on August 12, 1922. Sister Nicolette made her perpetual profession on August 12, 1925. Her early superiors, who believed she had a vocation to the religious life, could not have known that she would celebrate nearly 85 years of religious life with her Joliet Franciscan Sisters.

Sr. Nicolette attended St. Stephen School in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. She graduated from St. Francis Academy and earned a bachelor's degree in history from the College of St. Francis in Joliet.

Nicolette began her seven-decade career in education in 1922. During this long span of time, she taught every elementary school grade in 13 different schools. Her assignments read like a Joliet Franciscan atlas: in Illinois - Chicago, Des Plaines, Streator, Joliet; in Wisconsin - Red Cliff; in Ohio - Cleveland and Columbus. After retiring from full time teaching in 1969, she continued part time teaching and library work at St. Joseph School in Joliet. From 1975 to 1991, Sr. Nicolette ministered as a tutor in the St. Francis Reading Center at our Motherhouse.

Many of us remember Sr. Nicolette for another ministry she performed on behalf of our Sisters, college students and neighbors who enjoyed our Motherhouse grounds. Every spring, summer and fall found Sr. Nicolette tending the roses along the campus walkways and in the Motherhouse garden. We can picture her in her gardening apron, tools and pail in hand, pruning, feeding, cutting and covering those beautiful

roses, which were never the same once Nicolette retired to Our Lady of Angels. Perhaps her longevity was aided by knowing how to balance work and recreation. In addition to her gardening, she loved to sew and was a great lover of nature's many beauties.

From her earliest years, Sr. Nicolette was a quiet but deep woman. A few people knew her well, but even those who lived with her for many years can attest to her reluctance to talk about herself. Yet she enjoyed the companionship of community. She once wrote that she enjoyed living in a community with "young and old mixed. Young have much to learn from the wisdom and experience of the old, and the old need the young blood to give them life, vigor and enthusiasm, which decline with old age. We don't want to be old grumpy people living with grumpy people." And despite her age, we all saw her enthusiasm on her 100th birthday when she could still be delighted by a gathering of friends and a box of Fannie May chocolates.

We can tell much about people, if not from their own words, from the words they cherish. Nicolette had the practice of clipping articles, prayers, Dear Abby columns, inspirational writings (in both English and Slovak) so that she could reread the wisdom they contained. She kept a little black book of quotes, notes from spiritual talks and thoughts for the day which she wanted to revisit. One of her little notes sums up a life well-lived, a life worth living long: "If you want to be a saint, just be kind." We pray in gratitude for the kindnesses Sr. Nicolette shared with us for so very many years. We know that she is rejoicing with her family members and sisters in heaven, where she is young again. We know that she is resting in peace with her good God. Amen! Alleluia!

Sister Nicolette Galik, O.S.F.
19 October 1902 - 12 February 2005

Born: September 19, 1902; Orbisonia, PA
Parents: Andrew and Victoria Galik
Entered From: St. Stephen Parish; Johnstown, PA
Postulancy: August 14, 1919
Novitiate: August 12, 1920
Profession: August 12, 1922
Entered New Life: February 12, 2005

Ministry History

1921-1922	Teacher; Sacred Heart, Chicago, IL
1922-1925	Teacher; Assumption, Chicago, IL
1925-1926	Teacher; St. Wenceslas, Chicago, IL
1926-1927	Teacher; Holy Cross, Joliet, IL
1927-1928	Teacher; Holy Family, Cleveland, OH
1928-1930	Teacher; St. Stephen, Streator, IL
1931-1932	Teacher; St. Joseph, Joliet, IL
1932-1933	Teacher; St. Mary, DesPlaines, IL
1933-1934	Teacher; St. Boniface, Chicago, IL
1934-1937	Teacher; St. Frances de Sales, Chicago, IL
1937-1937	Teacher; St. Francis Assisi, Red Cliff, WI
1937-1938	Teacher; St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL
1938-1943	Teacher; St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL
1944-1945	Teacher; Sacred Heart, Chicago, IL
1945-1948	Teacher; St. Joseph, Joliet, IL
1948-1951	Teacher; St. Mary, Columbus, OH
1951-1954	Teacher; Assumption, Chicago, IL
1954-1955	Teacher; St. Stephen, Streator
1954-1963	Teacher; St. Procopius, Cleveland, OH
1963-1969	Teacher; Holy Family, Cleveland, OH
1969-1975	Teacher / Librarian; St. Joseph, Joliet
1975-1991	Tutor; Motherhouse, Joliet, IL
1991-2005	Retired; Motherhouse / Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL

Wake: Wednesday, February 16, 2005, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wake Service: Wednesday, February 16, 2005, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Mass of Christian Burial: Wednesday, February 16, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Burial: Thursday, February 17, 2005; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to
Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Interment: S8-L4-G4, Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL

Survived by: Nieces and nephews

Rest in Peace, Sister Nicolette