

# Alleluia!

## Sister Maria Hasse, O.S.F.



On July 8, 1939 Robert and Marie (Grill) Hasse welcomed their seventh child, a daughter whom they named Janet Louise. This youngest daughter brought great joy to her parents, as well as to her three brothers (Robert, Richard and James) and her three sisters (Rita, Bernadine and Mary Ann). Several years later Janet became the proud "big sister" of Jack and Bill. This family of nine children was well known in their home parish of St. John the Baptist in Joliet. Sister Maria once wrote: "Being the seventh of nine children has been helpful in rounding out my education of give and take. Religious education began at home with the important lessons of family, prayer, and taking care of all our neighbors, even if I'd rather play baseball."

Janet's relationship with the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate began as a student at St. John the Baptist School and continued at St. Francis Academy. She was only eight years old when her sister, Bernadine, joined the Joliet Franciscans. Ten years later Janet herself listened to the grace of God stirring within her, and responded in heartfelt generosity to the call to deepen her Baptismal covenant through religious profession. She joined the Joliet Franciscans on September 8, 1957, and entered the novitiate on August 13, 1958 when she was given the name Sister Maria. She made her first profession of vows in 1960, and her final profession in 1965.

Maria had a truly Franciscan heart that sought to give praise to God for every work of creation. In the classroom she recognized the gifts of her students and made every effort to empower them so that they could develop strong self-esteem. Her ability to call forth the best from them resulted in her students experiencing great joy when they achieved something that they earlier had believed was beyond their ability. She knew how to weave together a teaching style that included not only strong academics, but also humor, creativity, art, music, and a spirit of fun. One of the legacies that Maria left her students was the awareness of a larger world in need of caring hearts. Everywhere she taught she initiated programs of mission outreach that involved the students in visiting senior citizens in nursing homes or serving meals to the needy or raising money for the Brazil missions. When our Franciscan Sisters returned from Brazil for a visit to the states, Maria often invited them

to her classroom so that the students could make a personal connection with someone whose ministry benefited from their local mission activity.

After thirty years as a classroom teacher, Maria followed her heart's desire to be involved full time in the ministry of Religious Education. In 1991 she joined the staff of St. Andrew Parish in Romeoville, Illinois as Director of Religious Education. There she had the opportunity to continue to involve students and adults alike in living the Gospel. In a letter to the parish community last August, announcing her need to retire from active ministry due to failing health, Maria wrote: "St. Andrew Parish is a loving, accepting place to be and to work. I consider that a great gift God has given to me. It's a joy to see growth, friendship, worship and many peoples working together. I strongly believe this is what Jesus intended church to be."

Throughout her forty-eight years as a Joliet Franciscan, Maria enriched our lives in community through her many gifts. At different times she was a member of the Spirituality Committee, the Peace and Justice Committee, the Franciscan Mysticism Task Force. She worked tirelessly to present programs of spiritual significance, such as *Build with Living Stones* and *Facing the Christ Incarnate*. Just this past October she called together sisters to prepare *Transitus*, the prayerful commemoration of Francis' passing through death to eternal life.

Maria, on May 3, 2005 you celebrated your own *transitus* as you peacefully and gently embraced Sister Death. We, your sisters, family, and friends rejoice that you are now free of the pain and suffering that were constant companions these past few years. We thank you for the love, joy and faith that you brought to our lives. Now you know without question the reality expressed in one of your favorite songs: "Truly the presence of the Lord is in this place!" Amen! Alleluia!

**Sister Maria Hasse, OSF**  
8 July 1939 — 3 May 2005

*Born:* July 8, 1939  
*Parents:* Robert and Marie (Grill) Hasse  
*Entered From:* Church of St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL  
*Postulancy:* September 8, 1957  
*Novitiate:* August 13, 1958  
*Profession:* August 12, 1960  
*Entered New Life:* Tuesday, May 3, 2005, at Joliet Hospice at 3:25 p.m.

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**Ministry History**

1960-1961 CSF Full Time Student Juniorate, St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL  
1961-1963 Teaching: Grades 4, 5; Organist; St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH  
1963-1964 Teaching: Grades 5, 6; Organist; St. Michael, Sigel, IL  
1964-1966 Teaching: Grades 5, 6; Organist; Sacred Heart, Chicago, IL  
1966-1968 Teaching: Grade 5; Organist; St. Joseph, Freeport, IL  
1968-1969 Teaching: Grade 6; Organist; Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH  
1969-1970 Teaching: Grade 8; Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH  
1970-1975 Teaching: Grade 8; Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH  
1975-1976 Teaching: Grades 5, 6; Coordinator CCD; St. Michael, Brunswick, MI  
1976-1979 Teaching: Grades 5, 6; St. Michael, Brunswick, MI  
1979-1980 Teaching: Grades 5, 6; Organist (PT); St. Michael, Brunswick, MI  
1980-1981 Teaching: Grades 5, 6; Organist; St. Michael, Brunswick, MI  
1981-1982 Teaching: Aurora Central Catholic High School, Aurora, IL  
1982-1991 Teaching: Junior High; Annunciation, Aurora, IL  
1991-2004 Religious Education Director, St. Andrew, Romeoville, IL  
2004-2005 Retired

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*Wake:* Friday, May 6, 2005, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Wake Service:* Friday, May 6, 2005, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Mass of Christian Burial* Friday, May 6, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Burial* Saturday, May 7, 2005 leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL  
*Interment:* S8-L4-G12, Resurrection Cemetery

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*Survived by:* Her three sisters, Rita Blackburn, Sr. Bernadine Hasse, OSF, Mary Ann Hasse; three brothers, Rev. James W. Hasse, S.J., Jack (Deb) Hasse, William Hasse; her two sisters-in-law, Ann Hasse and Lily Mulligan, many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Predeceased by parents Robert and Marie Hasse; two brothers, Robert Hasse and Richard Hasse; and brother-in-law Thomas Blackburn.

**Rest in Peace, Sister Maria**