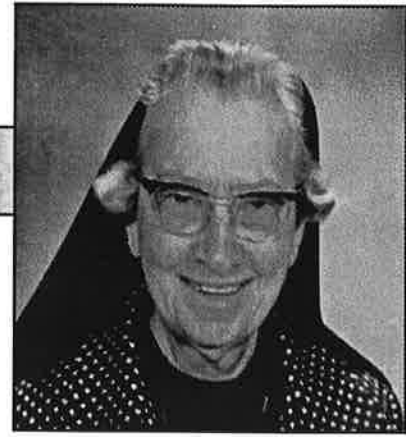


# Alleluia!

Sister Gertrude J. Heurich, OSF



Sister Gertrude Heurich was born in Coloma, Michigan on October 3, 1920, to William and Rose Schaub Heurich. On October 10, she was baptized Gertrude Therese at St. Joseph Church in Watervliet, Michigan. Gertrude was the second of six children. Her brother Lawrence and her sisters Eva and Monica preceded her in death. She is survived by her brother William and her sister Marie.

Gertrude attended the Red Brick and Covert Consolidated Schools in Michigan through the ninth grade. In 1935 she came to Joliet and entered St. Francis Preparatory. On September 6, 1937, Gertrude entered the postulancy, where she completed her high school education and graduated from St. Francis Academy on August 4, 1938. Gertrude entered the Novitiate on August 12, 1938, and received the name Sister Mary Irmentrude, though she would later return to her baptismal name. In her letter to Mother Thomasine asking to enter the Novitiate, Gertrude wrote, "...to be a member of the community is the only place for me."

After her profession of vows on August 12, 1940, Sister Gertrude began her 54 years of ministry in the field of education at St. Francis Xavier's School in Chicago. She taught grades 3 through 6 at various schools in Illinois, Ohio and Michigan, including 6 years at Corpus Christi in Columbus, Ohio and 8 years at St. William's in Chicago. From 1972 - 1983, Gertrude ministered at Holy Family School in Joliet, where from 1974 until 1983, she was both teacher and principal. Sister Gertrude loved working with children and continually attended workshops to keep herself updated. On the occasion of her 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee when asked

to comment on her ministry all she wrote was, "I enjoyed teaching children in the elementary grades for 54 years."

In 1994 after suffering some health problems, Sister Gertrude moved to Our Lady of Angels. Though her health was not always good, Gertrude kept as active as possible. This past July she had surgery from which she never completely recovered. Then, on the morning of Sunday, October 14, 2001, while sleeping, Gertrude quietly went home to her God.

Besides her love of teaching children, Sister Gertrude loved her sisters in community and she showed this by her service to them. For many years she would spend her school vacations volunteering at St. Francis Academy Convent. She was a talented seamstress and would spend hours sewing for others. Sister Eulalia, her Novice Director, once said that Gertrude could "make something out of nothing." But above all, Gertrude was a woman of prayer. She prayed especially for vocations, for priests and often interceded with her patron, Saint Gertrude for the poor souls.

Sister Gertrude we thank you for your 63 years of service as teacher and principal, as sister and friend. As you begin your eternity with the God you served so faithfully throughout your life, remember us your family, your friends, your Franciscan sisters. Amen! Alleluia!

**Sister Gertrude Therese Heurich, O.S.F.**  
**3 October 1920 - 14 October 2001**

*Born:* October 3, 1920, Colomo, Michigan  
*Parents:* John and Rose Lena (Schaub) Heurich  
*Entered From:* Sacred Heart Church, Bangor, Michigan  
*Postulancy:* September 6, 1937  
*Novitiate:* August 12, 1938  
*Profession:* August 12, 1940  
*Entered New Life:* Sunday, October 14, 2001, at Our Lady of Angels at 4:45 a.m.

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**Ministry History**

1940 - 1942 Teacher, Grade 3; St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL  
 1942 - 1944 Teacher, Grade 4; Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH  
 1944 - 1948 Teacher, Grades 4 & 6; Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH  
 1948 - 1951 Teacher, Grade 6; St. Clement, Chicago, IL  
 1951 - 1952 Teacher, Grade 6; St. Pascal, Chicago IL  
 1952 - 1953 Teacher, Grades 3 & 4; St. Joseph, Freeport, IL  
 1953 - 1957 Teacher, Grades 4, 5, & 6; Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH  
 1957 - 1958 Teacher, Grades 5 & 6; Annunciation, Aurora, IL  
 1958 - 1962 Teacher, Grade 5; St. Procop, Cleveland, OH  
 1962 - 1964 Teacher, Grades 3,4, 5, 6; St. Mary, RockIsland, IL  
 1964 - 1968 Teacher, Grade 5; St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH  
 1968 - 1972 Teacher, Grade 6; St. Rita, Aurora, IL  
 1972 - 1983 Teacher/Principal, Holy Family, Joliet, IL  
 1983 - 1986 Teacher, Grade 3; St. Stanislaus, Hilliards-Dorr, MI  
 1986 - 1994 Teacher; St. William, Chicago, IL  
 1994 - 2001 Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

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*Wake:* Tuesday, October 16, 2001, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Wake Service:* Tuesday, October 16, 2001, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Mass of Christian Burial:* Tuesday, October 16, 2001, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Interment* Body donated to science. Burial at a future date.

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*Survived by:* A sister, Marie Nicholas, a brother, William Heurich and a niece and nephew.

**Rest in Peace, Sister Gertrude**