

# Alleluia!

Sister M. De Sales Jaeger, O.S.F.



Sister DeSales Jaeger was born August 21, 1912, in Chicago, Illinois, to Otto Philip and Amy (Medill) Jaeger. She was their first-born child and was named Violet. Her brothers and sisters, Otto (Bud), Ann Marie (Sister Aloysius), Carl and Frances followed her and together they formed a close-knit family. They are all now deceased. Many nieces and nephews still remain.

Violet entered the postulancy on September 2, 1929, from Queen of Angels Parish in Chicago. She entered the novitiate on August 12, 1930, and received the name Sister M. DeSales, the name she kept the rest of her life. Her first and final professions occurred in 1932 and 1935 respectively, and her 42-year teaching career began, spanning many schools in Illinois and Ohio. As Sister DeSales noted, her most cherished place of ministry was at Old St. Mary's in Columbus, Ohio, where she remained 12 years. She referred to these years in her article in *The Patchwork Quilt*, as nurturing, growthful years. But Sister DeSales also enjoyed her ministry wherever and whatever it was. She was a happy, hard worker, and brought joy and dedication to every aspect of her work. Whether she served as a teacher, a principal, a records clerk, an attendance office worker, or as an Assistant Dean of Women, Sister DeSales shared all that she learned from the College of St. Francis, De Paul, or Marquette University as well as from her daily encounters. Even during her busiest days, she refreshed her-self by reading, doing crossword or jigsaw puzzles, crocheting, listening to classical music or watching a Cubs game. Sister DeSales loved life. She loved working, praying, writing letters or cards and keeping in touch with her family, her former students and her friends.

Looking back through her writings, I found an article that Sister DeSales wrote entitled, *As I Glance Back*. In this she reminisced about many

happy moments in her life such as peeling fruit with the other novices and Sister Rosalinda, doing laundry with Sisters Ludwina and Fidelis, learning about household chores from Sister Cunegunda, laughing hysterically with her classmates while exchanging jokes and telling of classroom capers, laughing and giggling when Sister Eulalia's pitch pipe was not working properly. She remembered when and why she and the other sisters wore a face veil, how they recited their crowns at St. John's cemetery and the great hush of grand silence and the stillness and suspense that were present as she gathered with others in the auditorium waiting for the Reverend Mother to read aloud the new obediences. Sister DeSales spoke of the lasting impression that Mother Thomasine and Sister Eulogia had on her as they helped her to become the person that she was. And Sister DeSales was happy with her life now too and appreciated the care and concern that she was shown by the sisters, the caregivers and all who helped her at Our Lady of Angels. And it was while the nurses and aides were tending to her needs on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday, that Sister DeSales quietly went home to her God. She entered this world and left this world on the same date, a date that will be remembered by those who loved her so dearly.

Sister DeSales, we thank you for the ways in which you touched our lives. Your family, your sisters in community and associates and friends thank our God for the kindness that you shared with each of us. We pray that you may always rejoice in peace with the God whom you served so faithfully. Amen! Alleluia!

**Sister M. De Sales Jaeger, OSF**  
21 August 1912 — 21 August 2005

*Born:* August 21, 1912  
*Parents:* Otto P. Jaeger and Amy (Medill) Jaeger  
*Entered From:* Queen of Angels  
*Postulancy:* September 2, 1929  
*Novitiate:* August 12, 1930  
*Profession:* August 12, 1932  
*Entered New Life:* Sunday, August 21, 2005, at Our Lady of Angels at 1:15 p.m.

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**Ministry History**

1932-1940 Teacher: Grades 2, 3, 4,5,7; St. Mary, Columbus, OH  
1940-1944 Teacher: High School; St. Mary  
1944-1949 Teacher, Advisor: High School; SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL  
1949-1952 Teacher, Advisor, Assistant Dean of Women; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL  
1952-1953 Teacher: High School; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL  
1953-1956 Teacher: St. Clement High School, Chicago, IL  
1956-1962 Superior and Principal: Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago, IL  
1962-1963 Teacher: High School; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL  
1963-1965 Teacher: High School; St. Peter High School, Mansfield. OH  
1965-1974 Teacher, Head of English Department: St. Francis de Sales High School, Chicago, IL  
  
1974-1977 Clerical Work: St. Thomas Academy, Louisville, OH  
1977-1978 Adult Education: Holy Trinity, Westmont, IL  
1978-1995 Clerk/Typist: Motherhouse, Joliet, IL  
1995-1999 Clerical Ministry, Central Administration: Motherhouse  
1999-2001 Community Service: Motherhouse  
2001-2005 Retired

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*Wake:* Friday, August 26, 2005, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Wake Service:* Friday, August 26, 2005, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Mass of Christian Burial* Friday, August 26, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Burial* Saturday, August 27, 2005 leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL  
  
*Interment:* S8-L333-G7, Resurrection Cemetery  
*Predeceased by:* Her parents Otto P. Jaeger and Amy (Medill); two brothers Bud and Carl (Bonnie) Jaeger; two sisters, Sr. Aloysius Jaeger and Frances (Robert) Van Daam.

**Rest in Peace, Sister De Sales**