

# Alleluia!

Sister Alma Joseph Jurkovich, OSF



Sister Alma Jo Jurkovich was born in Joliet, Illinois, on August 27, 1921, to Frank and Frances (Bajt) Jurkovich. Baptized Frances Rose at St. Mary Croatian Church, now known as St. Mary Nativity Church, she went by the name Rose. She was preceded in death by her three brothers, Frank, Ignatius and Fr. Joseph, a Joliet Diocesan priest, and her two sisters, Anne and Sister Dorothy, a Lemont, Illinois Sister of St. Francis.

Rose graduated from St. Mary's Elementary School and St. Francis Academy. She then worked as a secretary for a year before entering the Postulancy on September 4, 1940. Upon entering the Novitiate on August 12, 1941, she received the name, Sister Mary Alma Joseph, which she later shortened to Alma Jo. And, of course, many of us affectionately called her A.J.

Alma Jo first professed vows on August 12, 1943. She spent the next year completing her college education and graduated from the College of St. Francis in May 1944. Later she earned a Master of Arts in Administration from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, and a Master of Arts in Theology from Mundelein College in Chicago, Illinois.

For 44 years, Alma Jo taught in secondary schools in Illinois and Ohio. This included a total of 14 years at St. Peter's in Mansfield, Ohio and a total of 15 years at her alma mater, St. Francis Academy in Joliet, Illinois. She began by teaching business courses and later taught theology. She also spent a year in Assumption, Ohio, as director of religious

education. A.J. loved teaching and once wrote: "My work is very challenging, but satisfying."

When, in 1990, Alma Jo completed her years in the classroom, she spent the next five years as director and teacher of Adult Education for Joliet Township District 204 and worked out of St. Joseph School in Rockdale, Illinois. She also tutored at St. Francis Reading Center in Joliet.

A.J. had health problems throughout her life, but she was always willing to do what needed to be done to regain her strength. She treasured her religious vocation, and especially loved praying together in community.

In 1996, Alma Jo retired to Our Lady of Angels. She spent her days praying, reading and enjoying "good television shows." About 4:00 a.m. on Friday, January 30, when the nursing staff changed her position in bed, she seemed fine. Therefore, it was a surprise to them when checking on her a half hour later, she was unresponsive. Later that morning, A.J. quietly and peacefully went home to her God.

Sister Alma Jo, we thank you for the 63 years you spent with us as teacher, director, sister and friend. As you begin eternity with the God you served so faithfully and generously, remember us, your family, your friends, your Franciscan Sisters. Amen! Alleluia!

**Sister Alma Joseph Jurkovich, OSF**  
**27 August 1921 - 30 January 2004**

*Born:* August 27, 1921; Joliet, Illinois  
*Parents:* Frank and Frances (Bajt) Jurkovich  
*Entered From:* St. Mary (Croatian), Joliet, Illinois  
*Postulancy:* September 4, 1940  
*Novitiate:* August 12, 1941  
*Profession:* August 12, 1943  
*Entered New Life:* Friday, January 30, 2004; Our Lady of Angels at 10:50 a.m.

838

**Ministry History**

1943 - 1944 Student; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL  
 1944 - 1946 Business Teacher; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL  
 1946 - 1948 Business Teacher; SS Peter & Paul H.S., Chicago, IL  
 1948 - 1952 Business Teacher; St. Clement H.S., Chicago, IL  
 1952 - 1953 Bookkeeper/Directress & Teacher; Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH  
 1953 - 1957 Business Teacher; St. Procopius H.S., Chicago, IL  
 1957 - 1958 Business Teacher; St. Procop H.S., Cleveland, OH  
 1958 - 1964 Business Teacher; St. Peter's H.S., Mansfield, OH  
 1964 - 1967 Business Teacher; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL  
 1967 - 1975 Religion Teacher; St. Peter's H.S., Mansfield, OH  
 1975 - 1976 Director/Teacher of Religion, CCD & Adult; St. Mary, Assumption, OH  
 1976 - 1977 Sabbatical; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL & St. Pius X, Lombard, IL  
 1977 - 1980 Religion Teacher/ Librarian; All Saints/St. Anthony, Chicago, IL  
 1980 - 1982 Campus Minister; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL  
 1982 - 1990 Religion Teacher; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL  
 1990 - 1995 Director/Teacher, Adult Education for District 204; St. Joseph, Rockdale  
 1995 - 1996 Tutor; St. Francis Center, St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL  
 1996 - 2004 Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

*Wake:* Tuesday, February 3, 2004, 2 - 6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Wake Service:* Tuesday, February 3, 2004, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Mass of Christian Burial:* Tuesday, February 3, 2004, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Burial:* Wednesday, February 4; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 8:30 a.m.  
 to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL  
 S8 - L326 - G6

*Survived by:* Nieces and nephews.

**Rest in Peace, Sister Alma Joseph**