

Sister M. Audrey Kappes, O.S.F.



Born: February 10, 1914
 Parents: Frank J. and Elizabeth (Labert) Kappes
 Entered from: St. Joseph, Pesotum, IL
 Postulancy: September 2, 1929
 Novitiate: August 12, 1930
 Profession: August 12, 1932
 Died: Sunday, November 28, 1999 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home,
 Joliet, IL at 10:00 p.m.

Ministry:

1932 - 1939 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
 1939 - 1940 St. Michael, Sigel, IL, Grades 4, 5, 6
 1940 - 1946 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grades 6, 7, 8
 1946 - 1955 Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet, IL, Grades 7, 8
 1955 - 1961 St. Mary, Plainfield, IL, Grades 6, 7, 8 and Principal
 1961 - 1962 St. Mary, Mt. Vernon, IL, Grades 7, 8 and Principal
 1962 - 1964 Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH, Grade 8
 1964 - 1968 Holy Family, Cleveland, OH, Grade 8 and Principal
 1968 - 1969 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Principal
 1969 - 1982 St. Mary, Plainfield, IL, Principal
 1982 - 1986 Rantoul, IL, Minister to the Home Bound and Elderly
 1986 - 1999 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Wednesday,
 December 1, 1999 from 2-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Wednesday,
 December 1, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Thursday, December 2, 1999 leaving Our Lady of Angels at
 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
 Section 8, Lot 349, Grave 7

Survived by: nieces and nephews and cousins, including Sister Evangeline Kleiss, O.S.F.

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,
life is not ended, but merely changed.*

Sister Audrey Kappes was born on February 10, 1914 in Pesotum, Illinois to Frank and Elizabeth Labert Kappes. She was baptized Dorothy Elizabeth at St. Joseph Church in Pesotum on February 14, 1914. There were seven children in her family, three boys and four girls: Cele, Mary, Cleopha Rose (Sister Illuminata), Joe, Dorothy (Sister Audrey), Ray and Francis (Boots).

On September 2, 1929, young Dorothy came to Joliet to become a postulant with the Joliet Franciscan Sisters. Her sister, Sister Illuminata, had already been professed as a member of the Congregation in 1923. On August 12, 1930, Dorothy was received into the novitiate and given the name Sister Mary Audrey.

Following First Profession of vows on August 12, 1932, Sister Audrey began teaching in Chicago at Sacred Heart, Englewood. She later taught at St. Michael in Sigel, Illinois; St. Raymond in Joliet; as well as in Columbus and Cleveland, Ohio and Mount Vernon, Illinois.

From 1955-1961 Sister Audrey was principal and teacher at St. Mary Immaculate School in Plainfield, Illinois and returned there in 1969 and remained until 1982. During her years of ministry in Plainfield, the school grew and was regarded as a place of excellent education and discipline. The children and their families were involved in many parish activities as they grew more deeply in their faith. The students took pride in their science and art projects and in the pageants and presentations. Monsignor Rotondi, her pastor, extolled her as a "very capable principal."

After serving 50 years as an educator, Sister Audrey moved to Rantoul, Illinois where she cared for the sick and the homebound. In 1986, she came to Our Lady of Angels in Joliet to retire. In these years she continued to serve as helper to others in various ways.

When Sister Audrey suffered a stroke, her activities were cut back. Her prayer and her concern for others continued. She enjoyed having people come to visit her and promised special prayers for all who came. Her strength gradually failed. As the season of Advent began, the words of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" took on a special meaning as Jesus came on the night of November 28, 1999, the First Sunday of Advent, to take her to live with him forever in heaven. Her death was quiet and peaceful, as though it was a response of "Here I am, Lord," even as she had first promised in her dedication to God through Baptism and later in religious profession.

Sister Audrey, we thank you for your many years of dedicated service as educator. Help us to continue to learn from each event in your life. May you continue to pray for us, your family, your friends, your students and your Franciscan Sisters. May you live forever in God's peace and love. Amen. Alleluia.

