

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

750

Born: October 19, 1909
Parents: William and Theophila (Roemer) Kappes
Entered from: Holy Rosary Parish - Columbus, OH
Postulancy: September 5, 1927
Novitiate: August 12, 1928
Profession: August 12, 1930
Died: Tuesday, March 25, 1997 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home at 6:10 a.m.



Ministry:

1930 - 1931 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Normal Department, Secondary Subjects
1931 - 1941 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Latin, English, French, History, Typing
1941 - 1946 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, English, French, Librarian
1946 - 1959 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Latin, French, Librarian
1959 - 1961 St. Clement High School, Chicago, IL, English, Librarian
1961 - 1966 St. Mary High School, Columbus, OH, English, French, Latin
1966 - 1982 Bishop Ready High School, Columbus, OH, English, French, Latin,
Librarian/Media Coordinator
1982 - 1991 Catholic Migration Refugee Resettlement Service, Columbus, OH,
English as a Second Language
1991 - 1997 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Monday, March 31, 1997
2-7:00 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.
Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Monday, March 31, 1997, 7 p.m.
Burial: Tuesday, April 1, 1997 leaving Our Lady of Angels 9:30 a.m.
to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8-L339-G1
Survived by: by her sisters Clare (William) Vorst of Pacific Palisades, CA;
Sister Pascal Kappes, ASC of Wichita, KS; Joan Smith of
Columbus, OH; Katherine Van Dine of Colorado Springs, CO
and her brother Paul Kappes of Columbus, OH.

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

Sister Clarice Kappes was born in Manitowac, Wisconsin to William and Theophila Kappes on October 19, 1909 and was given the name of Margaret Mary in Baptism. Her family moved to Columbus, Ohio when the children were little. Margaret had four brothers: William and Francis (who were later ordained priests), Paul and John and four sisters: Katherine, Joan, Clare and her sister who later became Sister Mary Paschal of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in Kansas.

After completing her grade school years at Holy Rosary, Margaret attended St. Mary's High School in Columbus, where she came to know the Joliet Franciscans. On September 5, 1927 Margaret came to Joliet to be a postulant with these Franciscan Sisters and was received into the novitiate the following August and given the name of Sister Mary Clarice. The love of her patron saint, Clare and of Francis, continued to deepen in Sister Clarice through the years. She was always eager to learn more about them and sought to deepen her spirituality through prayer and study throughout her life. Sister Clarice received a Certificate in the Seraphic Institute at the College of St. Francis, and more recently was an active participant in the Franciscan Institute.

After professing her first vows, Sister Clarice began her ministry of secondary education teaching English and foreign language for over one half a century, with almost half of those years spent at St. Francis Academy in Joliet. Sister Clarice taught in Columbus, Ohio for 30 years at her alma mater of St. Mary's, at Bishop Ready High school and at the Catholic Migration Refugee Settlement Service.

Besides her teaching Sister Clarice spent time volunteering in many areas including serving as an organist for Alum Crest Nursing Home, corresponding with many people, singing in the choir, writing poems and other works. The Gruen Watch Company honored Sister Clarice with an award for an essay, submitted under her pen name of Mary Clare Rice.

In June of 1991 Sister Clarice was the last of the final three Franciscan Sisters living at St. Mary's in Columbus. The year 1991 marked the end of 116 years of service to St. Mary's by over 500 Joliet Franciscan Sisters. The parish honored the sisters at a farewell celebration, thanking them for their service.

In June of 1991, Sister Clarice began her residence at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home where she continued to tutor, to study, to read and to spend many hours in prayer. Though she moved a little more slowly, Sister Clarice continued to visit and to take part in the daily life at OLA. Her Sisters were saddened and shocked to find out that as Sister Clarice was preparing to get herself ready for the morning Mass on March 25, she called for the nurse to help her. As the nursing staff assisted her, Sister Clarice apparently suffered a massive stroke and within a few minutes had already gone to meet the God she had served so faithfully until the end.

Sister Clarice, we thank you for the simple dedication of your life and your profound witness to education and the poor. Remember us, your family, your students, your Franciscan Sisters, and all the needy of the world, as you join with the risen Lord, and all the angels and saints in heaven. May you know God's love forever. Amen. Alleluia.

