

Alleluia!

Sister M. Patrice Kelly, OSF

Sister Patrice Kelly was the first child of Irish parents, Mary Agnes (Grace) and John Kelly. She was born in 1911 in Chicago, Illinois, and was baptized Catherine at St. Agnes Church. She had three siblings, Helen Smith, Sister Ita and John, all of whom preceded her in death. Catherine's early school days were spent at St. Pascal Grade School and Immaculata High School in Chicago. During high school, she came to Joliet and graduated from St. Francis Academy. Catherine entered the congregation as a postulant on September 3, 1928, continued in formation, receiving the name Sister Mary Patrice at her novitiate reception, and professed her first vows in 1931, and her perpetual vows in 1934.

Sister Patrice had a long and interesting career. I am sure that she did not realize that when she was sent to her first mission, Immaculate Conception in Toledo, Ohio, she would be there for over 25 years, celebrating her 25-year anniversary in the school and her Silver Jubilee. During these years she ministered as a teacher and a principal with such loving, caring, dedicated service. Many of our sisters remember her in this capacity and recall wonderful stories and anecdotes of her. Sister Patrice also ministered in congregation leadership, as a General Councilor and an Area Coordinator, taught at the College of St. Francis, and was principal at St. Raymond Grade School here in Joliet and St. Rita's in Aurora, IL. She then began another long career in Phoenix, Arizona where she enjoyed the sun and warmth while she was a teacher, a library assistant, bookkeeper, secretary and helped in many other ways. She celebrated a jubilee here also in grand style.

Sister Patrice loved learning. Her undergraduate degree was received at the College of St. Francis. While Sister Patrice received a Master's Degree from De Paul University, she also studied at the University of Dayton, Chicago Circle Campus, Marquette University and absorbed as much knowledge as she could from various workshops and institutes. In addition to her ministry, Sister Patrice was very active in other professional circles, such as the Catholic Library Volunteers of America, the RSVP program, the Delta Kappa



Gamma Society, as well as the Joliet Conference of Women Religious at which she served as its President in the late 1960's. Sister Patrice also published various articles in newspapers on the theme of educating children. She was well loved by her students and was often provided with tickets necessary to attend class reunions in various states so that she could share stories with her former students and reminisce about the school days they shared.

In reading about Sister Patrice, she was often described as orderly, cheerful, friendly and dedicated to her field of education. When she herself reflected on her ministry, she shared how everyone that was a part of her life was an integral part of the fabric of who she was and what she did. She talked about the energy that happens when she was able to touch the hearts and souls of those with whom and for whom she served. She was so grateful for anything and everything that was done for her. That was so evident here at Our Lady of Angels where she was responsive to those who helped her in any way. Even until the end, she shared this thankfulness with those around her, especially to her special friend, Sister Elaine Schneider, who shared with Sister Patrice for so many years and ministered to Patrice in so many ways.

Sister Patrice, we pray for all who were part of your life, all those whom you served. As the final survivor of the class of 1931, we pray for all your classmates who have gone before you. We pray for all your friends, especially Sister Elaine, your family members who are now with you in heaven and all our sisters who will miss you. We thank our loving God for all the ways you have touched our lives.

And with a heart full of thanksgiving for you, we say, Amen. Alleluia.

Sister M. Patrice Kelly, OSF

October 17, 1911 — February 23, 2006

Born: October 17, 1911, Chicago, Illinois
Parents: John J. Kelly and Mary Agnes (Grace) Kelly
Postulancy: September 3, 1928
Novitiate: August 12, 1929
First Profession: August 12, 1931
Final Profession: August 12, 1934
Entered New Life: February 23, 2006

Ministry History

1931-1950 Teacher; Grades 4, 5, 6, 8: Immaculate Conception, Toledo, OH
1950-1956 Superior/Principal: Immaculate Conception, Toledo, OH
1956-1957 Principal/Teacher; Grade 8: Immaculate Conception, Toledo, OH
1957-1961 Superior/Principal/Teacher; Grades 7, 8: St. Rita, Aurora, IL
1961-1967 Superior/Principal: St. Raymond's, Joliet, IL
1967-1968 Professor; Education Department: College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1968-1972 General Coordinator: Congregation Administration, Joliet, IL
1972-1976 Area Coordinator: Motherhouse, Joliet, IL
1976-1977 Teacher; Grade 6: St. Thomas the Apostle, Phoenix, AZ
1977-1980 Librarian/Office Aide: St. Matthew, Phoenix, AZ
1980-1981 Secretary/Librarian: St. Matthew, Phoenix, AZ
1981-1994 Bookkeeper/Secretary: St. Matthew, Phoenix, AZ
1994-2000 Clerical Assistant: St. Matthew, Phoenix, AZ
2000-2006 Retired/Special Ministry

Wake: Monday, February 27, 2006, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wake Service: Monday, February 27, 2006, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Mass of Christian Burial Monday, February 27, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Burial Tuesday, February 28, 2006, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Interment: S8-L350-G7 Resurrection Cemetery
Predeceased by: Her parents John J. and Mary Agnes (Grace) Kelly; her sisters, Sr. Ita Kelly, and Helen (James) Smith; and brother, John Kelly.
Survived by: Cousin Rev. John Grace.

Rest in Peace, Sister Patrice