

Sister M. Devota Komara, O.S.F.



Born: March 2, 1905  
 Parents: John and Veronica (Kriz) Komara  
 Entered from: St. Stephen Parish, Johnstown, PA  
 Postulancy: September 7, 1921  
 Novitiate: August 12, 1922  
 Profession: August 12, 1924  
 Died: Tuesday, April 18, 2000 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL at 2:00 a.m.

Ministry:

- 1924 - 1925 St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
- 1925 - 1926 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
- 1926 - 1928 St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
- 1928 - 1932 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Community Sewing Room, Assistant to Nurses
- 1932 - 1935 Assumption, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
- 1935 - 1936 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
- 1936 - 1940 Sacred Heart, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
- 1940 - 1942 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Domestic Work
- 1942 - 1944 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Community Sewing Room, Assistant to Nurses
- 1944 - 1947 Assumption, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
- 1947 - 1948 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Domestic Work
- 1948 - 1949 Sacred Heart, Hubbard Woods, IL, Domestic Work
- 1949 - 1950 St. Michael, Sigel, IL, Domestic Work
- 1950 - 1953 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work, Assistant to Nurses
- 1953 - 1954 St. Joseph, Elgin, IL, Domestic Work
- 1954 - 1955 St. Michael, Worthington, OH, Domestic Work
- 1955 - 1956 St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
- 1956 - 1962 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work, Assistant to Nurses
- 1962 - 1984 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Domestic Work
- 1984 - 2000 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Wednesday, April 19, 2000 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, April 19, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Thursday, April 20, 2000 leaving Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL Section 8, Lot 335, Grave 5

Survived by: her sister Margaret Torchia of Johnstown, PA and many nieces and nephews

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

Sister Devota Komara was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on March 2, 1905 to John and Veronica Kriz Komara. Three days later she was baptized Mary at St. Stephen Church in Johnstown. Her parents had nine children, three of whom died in infancy. Mary was the oldest of the children who lived past infancy. She was followed by Irene, Francis, Josephine, Rudolph and Margaret. Mary's parents were significant in influencing her life. They had come to America from Slovakia and were grateful that their children could be educated at the parish school. Later in her life, Mary said that her First Holy Communion was the highlight of her life.

In September of 1921, when Mary was 16 years old, she made the trip to Joliet to become a postulant with the Joliet Franciscan Sisters. The following August 12<sup>th</sup>, Mary was received into the novitiate and given the name, Sister Mary Devota. Following her first profession of vows on August 12, 1924, Sister Devota went to St. Boniface in Chicago to help in the convent with the domestic work. In the years that followed, Sister Devota served the needs of her sisters at many parish convents in Chicago, Hubbard Woods, Sigel and Elgin, Illinois and in Columbus and Worthington, Ohio and her home parish of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. In Joliet, she served as an assistant to the nurses in the Motherhouse infirmary and worked in the Motherhouse sewing room. When Our Lady of Angels opened, she moved there to do housekeeping at this new retirement home and continued in that position until she retired in 1984.

In her retirement years at Our Lady of Angels, Sister Devota could be found doing needlework, reading, praying and writing to her family and friends. Just days before she died, she had gotten her Easter cards ready to send and had asked one of the sisters to make sure she had stamps to get the cards ready to mail.

Sister Devota was happy in her work and enjoyed playing tricks on the sisters. Those who knew her described her as "exact, charitable, industrious," and as "happiness itself." Whenever she had time between her chores, she would slip into chapel for some time for private prayer. She was always appreciative of anything anyone did for her and promised rosaries in thanks for service. One of her frequent phrases was, "I pray for all those who done me good!" The well-worn pages of her office book attest to her faithfulness to prayer.

As Sister Devota grew older, her hearing failed and she grew weaker, but she was very aware of all that was going on. Her death came as a surprise to those on the nursing staff and others around her, as she quietly went to God in the silence of the night long before the dawn came on Tuesday, April 18, 2000. The sisters gathered around her bed to pray as they learned of her death.

Sister Devota, we thank you for the gift of your devoted service to your sisters. We ask you to pray for us now, as you did on earth, so that our lives, too, may be lived in service and love of others. May you experience eternal happiness in the house of God, forever. Amen. Alleluia.

