

Alleluia!

Sister Mary Ancilla Kopco, OSF



Sister Ancilla Kopco was born on July 13, 1915 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania to Stephen and Elizabeth Veres Kopco. Baptized Mary at St. Stephen's Church, she had two brothers, Stephen (now deceased) and Louis. Mary also had four sisters, Vern, Anne and two who died shortly after birth. After graduating from St. Stephen's Grade School, Mary came to Joliet to attend St. Francis Preparatory.

On September 8, 1930, at the age of 15, Mary began her postulancy. The next August she entered the novitiate and was given the name Sister Mary Ancilla. As a novice, it was noted by Sr. Ottilia that "she had a great interest in baking and cooking!" After first profession on August 12, 1933, Sister Ancilla began her 59 years in the Food Service/Homemaking ministry. In 1934 Sister Ancilla wrote to Mother Thomasine, "I love my work and also the sisters with whom I have worked. This makes my work much easier."

Sister Ancilla ministered in Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. She was stationed in Johnstown during the 1977 flood where she witnessed the devastation and terrible ordeal, especially for the poor. She served at St. Mary's in Columbus, Ohio for eight years where she also did Church work, as well as seven years at the Motherhouse and a total of 17 years at Our Lady of Angels, until she retired there in 1992.

Sister Ancilla loved to crochet; to listen to TV talk shows, because "she learned from them;" to clean; to read books, especially about food and to gather new recipes.

When asked who influenced her life, she named Sister Rosella, because she taught her "to belong to the construction gang and not the wrecking crew."

And Sister Ancilla said that she always tried to live accordingly.

Besides all the physical work that Sister Ancilla did in her life, she was a woman of prayer. She had a great devotion to her patroness, Our Blessed Mother, and could often be seen praying the Rosary and her favorite prayer, The Memorare. She also liked to have fun, as she enjoyed a good game of cards and she had a quick, dry wit. Above all, Sister Ancilla always expressed deep gratitude for the little things done for her.

The last few years, Sister Ancilla suffered greatly because of arthritis. Her body, which had worked so hard for so many years, was wearing out. She was anointed last Monday and had a final visit with her friend, Sister Emilita, Tuesday evening. Early Wednesday morning, September 27, not long after the nurses ministered to her, Sister Ancilla quietly and peacefully went to her God.

Sister Ancilla, we thank you for sharing your love and talents with us these 67 years. As your namesake, you are a true handmaiden of the Lord. May you continue to remember us, your family, your friends, and your Franciscan sisters. Amen. Alleluia.

Sister Mary Ancilla Kopco, OSF
13 July 1915 - 27 September 2000

Born: July 13, 1915
Parents: Stephen and Elizabeth (Veres) Kopco
Entered From: St. Stephen's, Johnstown, Pennsylvania
Postulancy: September 8, 1930
Novitiate: August 12, 1931
Profession: August 12, 1933
Entered New Life: Wednesday, September 27, at Our Lady of Angels at 2:15 A.M.

Ministry History

1933 - 1934 Domestic Work, St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
 1934 - 1935 Domestic Work, St. Mary's, Columbus, OH
 1935 - 1937 Domestic Work, Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago, IL
 1938 - 1942 Domestic Work, St. Pascal, Chicago, IL
 1942 - 1943 Domestic Work, St Francis of Assisi, Chicago, IL
 1943 - 1944 Domestic Work, St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
 1944 - 1945 Domestic Work, St. Peter's, Mansfield, OH
 1945 - 1946 Domestic Work, Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL
 1946 - 1953 Domestic Work, Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH
 1953 - 1954 Domestic Work, Holy Family, Bayfield, WI
 1954 - 1955 Domestic Work, St. Peter's, Mansfield, OH
 1955 - 1956 Domestic Work, St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL
 1957 - 1958 Domestic Work, St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA
 1958 - 1961 Domestic Work, St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
 1961 - 1962 Domestic Work, St. Mary's, Columbus, OH
 1962 - 1968 Domestic Work, Motherhouse Bakery, Joliet, IL
 1968 - 1973 Dietary Department, Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
 1973 - 1977 Domestic Work/Sacristan, St. Mary's Columbus, OH
 1977 - 1978 Family Ministry/Food Service, St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA
 1978 - 1980 Domestic Service, St. Mary's Columbus, OH
 1980 - 1992 Dietary Department, Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
 1992 - 2000 Special Ministry, Retired, Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL

Wake: Friday, September 29, 2000, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wake Service: Friday, September 29, 2000, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels
Mass of Christian Burial: Friday, September 29, 2000, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels
Burial: Saturday, September 30, 2000; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.
 to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL

Interment S8-L335-G4, Resurrection Cemetery

Survived by: Sister Vern (Joseph, deceased) Pavelich, sister Anne (Charles) Kinnel, brother Louis (Rita) Kopco, sister-in-law Mary (Stephen, deceased) Kopco and several nieces and nephews.

Rest in Peace, Sister Ancilla