

Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

On Friday evening, May 29, 2009, Sister Angela Marie Kostelec made her journey home to God, surrounded by devoted nieces, nephews, and cousins, along with her Joliet Franciscan sisters, who had kept vigil at her bedside for several days.

Born on May 6, 1908, little Angela was welcomed into life by her parents, Mary and Anthony Kostelec and baptized at St. Joseph Parish in Joliet, Illinois. The Kostelec family grew until there were nine children – two sons and seven daughters. At the age of seven, Angela lost her mother to death and at the age of nine her father died as well. Despite this enormous loss, Angela and her siblings built their lives on their parents' legacy of love and faith. Influenced by the care and concern of the Joliet Franciscan sisters, Angela Marie and two of her sisters, Frances Marie and Josephine, became members of the Congregation.

On August 12,1925, Angela Kostelec entered the novitiate and was given the name Sr. Mary Diomede. Throughout her religious life she taught at many schools in Illinois and Ohio. Sr. Angela Marie also dedicated herself to a variety of ministries at Guardian Angel Home, which in many ways was the love her life. While reminiscing on the occasion of her 75th Jubilee of entrance into the community, she said, "At Guardian Angel Home I learned to love and serve the children. I loved every class I ever taught and am always deeply touched when former students remember the old days – and me!"

In her years of retirement, Sr. Angela Marie was anything but "retired." As recent as this year, she was interested in learning to play the piano as well as the guitar. For a number of years, she generously volunteered wherever help was needed and she could lend a hand. She was always ready and willing. Sr. Angela Marie devoted herself to being attentive and supportive to those who, for whatever reason, could no longer care for themselves. Her personal presence was characterized by availability,

Alleluia!



Sister Angela Marie Kostelec, OSF

compassion and joy. Centering her life in prayer and self-giving, Sr. Angela Marie sought to imitate the example of Mary to whom she had great devotion.

A few weeks before her death, Sr. Angela Marie celebrated her 101st birthday. During the last few days of her life, though unable to respond verbally to those who came to visit her, she communicated a sense of peace and serenity. As those around her bedside remembered the long-forgotten acts of loving kindness and tender patience that Sr. Angela Marie had so often lavished on those for whom she cared, we can only begin to imagine the ways in which she was offering back to God each of the memories like glorious fireworks which splinter and spread and light up the sky with millions of diamond fragments, until the moment of her final breath, when gazing upon the face of God, she exclaimed, "Yes! These were the gifts of my life - all one hundred and one years of it – all of which I now give back to you, my God and my All!"

A faithful and devoted Franciscan who found joy in serving God through others, may Sr. Angela Marie now rejoice with her loved ones who have preceded her into eternal life. And may she intercede for those who celebrate the gift of her life and her love.

Amen Alleluia

Sister Angela Marie Kostelec, OSF May 6, 1908 — May 29, 2009

Born: May 6, 1908 Parents: Anton and Mary (Stefanic) Kostelec *Postulancy:* September 3, 1924 August 12, 1925 Novitiate: First Profession: August 12, 1927 Final Profession: August 12, 1930 Entered New Life: May 29, 2009 **Ministry History** 1927-1928 Teacher: Grade 2; St. Stephen, Streator, Illinois Teacher: Grades 2, 3, 4, & 5; St. Peter; Mansfield, Ohio 1928-1938 1938-Sept. 23, 1939 Prefect of Senior Girls: Guardian Angel Home; Joliet, Illinois Sept. 23-Dec. 7 Domestic Work: St. Bernard; Joliet, Illinois Surgery & Convalescence: Motherhouse; Joliet, Illinois Dec. 1939 1940-1941 Domestic Work: St. John the Baptist; Payne, Ohio Teacher: Grade 2; St. Clement; Chicago, Illinois Sept. 8-Oct. 12, 1941 Teacher: Grades 2 & 3; St. Joseph; Joliet, Illinois Oct. 12, 1941-1942 1942-1946 Teacher: Grades 3 & 5; St. Peter; Mansfield, Ohio Teacher: Grades 3 & 4; St. Joseph; Freeport, Illinois 1946-1949 Teacher: Grade 4; St. Joseph; Joliet, Illinois 1949-1950 1950-1954 Teacher: Kindergarten; Guardian Angel Home; Joliet, Illinois Teacher: Grade 3; St. Peter; Mansfield, Ohio 1954-1956 Teacher: Kindergarten; Guardian Angel Home; Joliet, Illinois 1956-1957 1957-1958 Teacher: Grades 1 & 2; St. Joseph; Pesotum, Illinois Teacher: Grade 3; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Chicago, Illinois 1958-1960 Teacher: Grade 2; St. Joseph; Freeport, Illinois 1960-1961 1961-1962 Teacher: Grade 2; St. Joseph; Elgin, Illinois 1962-1964 Teacher: Grade 4; St. Michael; Worthington, Ohio 1964-1966 Teacher: Grade 4: St. Jude; Cleveland, Ohio Teacher: Grade 4; SS. Peter & Paul; Chicago, Illinois 1966-1968 Teacher: Grade 5; St. Rita of Cascia; Aurora, Illinois 1968-1969 Nurses' Aide: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois 1969-1971 1971-1975 Nurses' Aide & Sacristan: Motherhouse; Joliet, Illinois Receptionist: Guardian Angel Home; Joliet, Illinois 1975-1976 1976-1979 Receptionist: St. Francis Academy Residence; Joliet, Illinois Health Service: Our Lady of Angels; Joliet, Illinois 1979-1982 Assistant Gift Shop: Motherhouse; Joliet, Illinois 1982-1985 Community Service: St. Francis Academy Residence; Joliet, Illinois 1985-1990 Community Service: Motherhouse; Joliet, Illinois 1990-2003 2003-2009 Community Service, Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois Wake: Wednesday, June 3, 2009, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet Prayer Service: Wednesday, June 3, 2009, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

Mass of Christian Burial: Burial: Wednesday, June 3, 2009, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet Wednesday, June 3, 2009, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet Wednesday, June 3, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet Thursday, June 4, 2009, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to St. Joseph Cemetery, Joliet, IL Lot 169, St. Joseph Cemetery

Interment:

Rest in Feace, Sister Angela Marie