

SISTER M. THELMA MAJER, O.S.F. 737

**Born:** October 1, 1914  
**Parents:** Andrew and Mary (Mikula) Majer  
**Entered from:** St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA  
**Postulancy:** September 8, 1930  
**Novitiate:** August 12, 1931  
**Profession:** August 12, 1933  
**Died:** Wednesday, January 3, 1996, at 11:21 p.m.  
at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home



**Ministry:**

1933-39 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grades 2,3,4  
1939-50 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Grades 4,5,6,7,8  
1950-52 Immaculate Conception, Toledo, OH, Grade 8  
1952-54 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 8  
1954-56 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grades 7, 5  
1956-58 St. Michael, Brunswick, MI, Principal, Grades 6,7,8  
1958-64 Assumption (St. Coleman), Pompano Beach, FL,  
Principal, Grades 7, 8  
1964-78 St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL, Principal  
1978-91 St. Jude, Joliet, IL, School Secretary  
1991-96 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

**Wake:** Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL,  
Sunday, January 7, 1996,  
2-7p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

**Mass of Christian Burial:** Sunday, January 7, 1996, 7p.m.

**Burial:** Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL,  
S8-L352-G11, Monday, January 8, 1996  
from Our Lady of Angels at 9:30 a.m.

**Survived by:**

Her brother Joseph (Flossie) Majer  
Her sister Margaret (John) Solic  
and many nieces and nephews

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

Sister Thelma Majer was born in Johnstown, PA on October 1, 1914 to Andrew and Mary Mikula Majer and was baptized Anna at St. Stephen's church. She was one of six children. After completing eighth grade Anna came to Joliet and attended St. Francis Preparatory. The pastor of St. Stephen's Church describes Anna as a girl of blameless character whose parents were exemplary Christians. Upon reception into the Novitiate on August 12, 1931 she was given the name of Sister M. Thelma. Thus one of her childhood dreams had been fulfilled.

Sister Thelma began her educational ministry in 1933 specializing in junior high and administration. She was happy to fulfill her desire to teach and she experienced much success in the classroom. One of her former pupils wrote this to her. "I remember so many things that were worthwhile, pleasant and humorous. I remember all those sentence diagrams in English, the activities in church, and your speaking to us as Christians who sometimes desire a soft and comfortable cross. I'll remember you in prayer and offer thanks to you and God for being a fine and dedicated teacher who has given me much to be thankful for." Sister Thelma herself said that she always thinks of all the youngsters she taught and remembered them in prayer, as it was the only way she could reach all of them. More challenges awaited her in 1956 when she was appointed principal of the new school that was opening at St. Michael's in Brunswick, MI and in 1958 when she was appointed principal of the new school that was opening at St. Coleman's in Pompano Beach, FL. Both of the schools still continue to serve their respective communities.

After forty-five years as a teacher and principal, Sister Thelma still loved to be near school children, so she accepted the position of school secretary at St. Jude's school in Joliet. Always anxious to learn, she took a computer class so she could manage the office work more efficiently. She was also able to continue her ministry of listening to and encouraging children, parents and teachers.

Sister Thelma was a peace-loving person and tried to be that way in her working days and convent living. She enjoyed being with the sisters and wouldn't trade it for any other life's work no matter how enticing it may seem. She enjoyed relaxing in God's nature whether it was the fields, orchards hills or valleys. And she enjoyed being close to the water whether on a boat, fishing, swimming or just sitting on the beach.

After suffering a stroke in 1991, Sister Thelma moved to Our Lady of Angels. There, in daily prayer, she remembered the needs of the community. She responded to the many cards and letters from family and numerous former pupils by arduously typing with one hand. Several months ago, there was a recurrence of cancer for which she wanted no further treatment. As her life was slowly slipping away over the past two weeks she was able to hear, and at times to sing along with her sisters and friends, as they prayed and waited with her. It was during her favorite season Christmas, while in the company of her friends and sisters, that Sister Thelma went peacefully to meet her God.

Sister Thelma, we thank you for your devoted service to Catholic elementary education and to our community. We ask you now to pray for those who work to foster Catholic education, for us your Franciscan sisters, your family members, your students and friends that we, too, may share in that heavenly peace which you now enjoy for all eternity. Amen. Alleluia.

