



## *Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate*

In the early morning hours of April 17, 2018, our sister, Margaret Alice Martinek, died as she had lived, trusting, as do the poor - from whom she learned so much - in the providence of God, only this and nothing more. Known to quote certain lyrics from her favorite musical, *Camelot*, with some frequency, especially in times of uncertainty, we can imagine that in her final hours, she lived into the ultimate answer to Guinevere's question to Arthur: "What do the simple folk do?" – not only in life, but also in death. Often alone, they trust in God, confident that they are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses eagerly awaiting a loved one's coming home to God.

On January 22, 1935, Margaret (Lautenbacher) and Andrew Martinek welcomed the third of ten children into the world. Their newborn daughter, Rosemary, like the children who surrounded her, was a sign of hope at a time when consequences of economic depression, ethnic divisions and the concerns of immigrants for their loved ones in the United States and in other parts of the world weighed heavily on the people of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Raised in a family of deep faith, where being neighbor to others was the foundation for Christian life and practice, Rosemary embodied the values and virtues associated with the works of mercy. From early on in her childhood, she took to heart the Gospel message shared with her by her loving family and the Franciscan Sisters who were her teachers at St. Stephen Grade School. As she approached adolescence, she sensed a call to religious life, and contrary to judgment of her siblings who thought it best to wait until after high school, Rosemary made her way to Joliet, Illinois. In September of 1948, devout and determined, she entered St. Francis Preparatory as an aspirant, along with a number of classmates with whom she would share the next seven decades of her life.

As Rosemary's years of religious formation unfolded, she became a postulant in September of 1951 and a novice in August of 1952. Given the treasured name Sister Mary Margaret Alice, she embraced the Franciscan way of life, dedicating herself to prayer, community, and ministry with an undivided heart. With the profession of her vows in August of 1954, she patterned her life on the life of Francis. Her commitment to teaching, learning, leading, serving and accompanying was steadfast and lived out with equal measures of Franciscan humility, joy and self-sacrifice. Completing her first degree at the College of St.

# Alleluia!



*Sister M. Margaret Alice Martinek, OSF*

Francis, she went on to DePaul University where she earned a Master's of Education degree, the benefits of which she stewarded well throughout her forty-five years in the ministry of education as teacher and as principal.

Long before Church documents and Congregational corporate stances were advanced, Sr. Margaret Alice already was unwavering in her 24/7 *lived* commitment to a preferential option for the poor, racial justice, advocacy for immigrants and refugees, solidarity with those on the margins, compassion for elders, care for creation, and concern for the most vulnerable, neglected and abused members of society. Living with the tensions and ambiguities created and sustained through years of reform and renewal, Sr. Margaret Alice faithfully held together the identities of being a daughter of the Church and an ecclesial woman. Honored by the Archdiocese of Chicago for her example and longstanding commitment to quality Catholic education in numerous inner city parish schools and recognized by the Society of St. Edmund for her thirteen years of presence and leadership as the Director of Catholic Social Ministry in Selma, Alabama, Sr. Margaret Alice truly lived into the motto: "Doing the best we can with what little we have to help those most in need."

We can say with a high degree of certainty that rich is the legacy of Sr. Margaret Alice. It is a legacy that lives on in the lives of the countless persons whom she touched throughout the course of her life - from St. Stephen's, to St. Boniface, to Bosco Kitchen, to the Center for Correctional Concerns, to OLA and all of the places in between. With gratitude for her Gospel witness, may the example of her life as reflected in this prayer of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., continue to serve as an inspiration for us all: "Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose, greater than myself." Alleluia. Alleluia.

## *Sister M. Margaret Alice Martinek, OSF*

*January 22, 1935 — April 17, 2018*

<i>Born:</i>	January 22, 1935
<i>Parents:</i>	Andrew and Margaret (Lautenbacher) Martinek
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 4, 1951
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1952
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1954
<i>Perpetual Final Vows:</i>	August 13, 1957
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	April 17, 2018

---

### **Ministry History**

1954-1960	Teacher: Grades 4, 5, St. Joseph, Joliet, Illinois
1960-1964	Teacher: Grades 6, 7, St. Boniface, Chicago, Illinois
1964-1973	Teacher/Principal: Grades 7-8, St. Joseph, Manhattan, Illinois
1973-1983	Teacher/Principal: Grade 5, St. Boniface, Chicago
1983-1984	Parish Ministry: St. Boniface, Chicago
1984-1986	Teacher: St. Procopius, Chicago
1986-1987	Teacher: St. Ludmilla, Chicago
1987-1989	Teacher: St. Bonaventure, Chicago
1989-1990	Teacher: St. Ludmilla, Chicago
1990-1991	Teacher: St. Mark, Chicago
1991-1992	Teacher: St. Joseph, Chicago
1992-1998	Teacher: Grade 5, Santa Maria Addolorata School, Chicago
1998-2002	Volunteer/Care Taker: Chicago
2002-2003	Teacher: St. John Berchmans, Chicago
2003-2016	Director of Catholic Social Ministry, Edmundite Missions, Selma, Alabama
2016-2018	Administrative Assistant: Center for Correctional Concerns, Joliet

---

<i>Wake:</i>	Friday, April 21, 2018, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Friday, April 21, 2018, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Friday, April 21, 2018, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Interment:</i>	Saturday, April 22, Section 8, Lot 344, Grave 4, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	By her parents, Andrew and Margaret (Lautenbacher) Martinek, her brothers John and Stephen and her sister Patricia Salas.
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her brothers, Andrew and Edward Martinek, and her sisters, Margaret Pasierb, Betty Ribblett, Mary Lorditch, Christine Buksa and numerous nieces and nephews.

*Rest in Peace, Sister Margaret Alice!*