

Alleluia!

Sister M. Clarine Matava, O.S.F.



A native of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Sister Clarine Matava was born on May 13, 1906 to John and Anna Plucinsky Matava. Baptized Anna at St. Stephen's on May 17, she had six brothers, Daniel, Edward, Frank, John, Joseph and Raymond, and five sisters, Agnes, Cecilia, Julia, Kathryn and Verna. All of her siblings are deceased except for Agnes Yeager who still lives with her husband in Johnstown.

After graduation from St. Stephen's Grade School and Commercial School, at age 15, Anna entered the postulancy on September 8, 1921. The next August she became a novice and received the name Sister Mary Clarine. As a novice she was described as kind, sensitive, industrious, talented and charitable, virtues which she developed and practiced all her life.

On August 12, 1924 Sister Clarine made her first profession of vows. That September she began her 59 years in education as a third grade teacher at St. Peter's in Mansfield, Ohio. After that first year she served in various schools in Illinois and Pennsylvania as a middle and upper grade teacher and principal. Her ministry included 19 years at her beloved St. Stephen's in Johnstown, 20 years at Sacred Heart, Huron Street in Chicago, and 14 years at St. Boniface in Chicago, where in her later years she was bookkeeper and librarian.

Her students remember her as kind, gentle, patient, always concerned about people and as one former student put it, "the sweetest per-

son on earth." All recall fondly her beautiful smile. Donald Morris wrote on Easter Tuesday 2000, "No one else influenced my life and made me a committed Catholic as did Sister Clarine when she taught us altar boys at St. Stephen's beginning in the summer of 1940."

In 1986 Sister Clarine retired to the Motherhouse where, with her friend Sister Amadea, she always found little chores to do. She especially loved working in the laundry. When she became more frail, she moved to Our Lady of Angels in 1993. She never complained, smiled often and was always appreciative of all that was done for her. This last year Sister Clarine suffered with pneumonia. On December 4, at 11:00 p.m., after spending her day in the usual way, Sister Clarine went quietly home to her God.

Sister Clarine, we thank you for sharing your life with us and teaching us by example to be kind and gentle and patient. As you celebrate your first Christmas in heaven, may you continue to remember us, your family, your friends, and your Franciscan sisters. Amen. Alleluia!

Sister M. Clarine Matava, O.S.F.
13 May 1906 - 4 December 2000

Born: May 13, 1906, Johnstown, Pennsylvania
Parents: John and Anna (Plucinsky) Matava
Entered From: St. Stephen, Johnstown, Pennsylvania
Postulancy: September 8, 1921
Novitiate: August 12, 1922
Profession: August 12, 1924
Entered New Life: Tuesday, December 4, 2000, at Our Lady of Angels at 11 p.m.

Ministry History

1924 - 1925 Teacher, Grades 3; St. Peter, Mansfield, OH
 1925 - 1926 Teacher, Grade 5; St. Stephen, Streator, IL
 1926 - 1940 Teacher, Grades 5, 6, 7; Sacred Heart Huron Street, Chicago, IL
 1940 - 1941 Teacher, Grade 6; St. Stephen, Streator, IL
 1941 - 1954 Teacher, Grades 6, 7, 8; St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA
 1954 - 1955 Principal and Teacher, Grades 7, 8; Assumption, Chicago, IL
 1955 - 1960 Principal and Teacher, Grades 7, 8; Sacred Heart Huron Street, Chicago, IL
 1960 - 1966 Principal and Teacher, Grade 8; St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA
 1966 Teacher, Grade 7; SS Peter & Paul, Chicago, IL
 1966 - 1967 Teacher, Grade 6; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL
 1967 - 1968 Principal and Teacher, Grade 7, 8; Sacred Heart Huron Street, Chicago, IL
 1968 - 1969 Teacher, Grade 7; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL
 1969 - 1972 Teacher, Grade 5; St. Boniface, Chicago, IL
 1972 - 1976 Librarian; St. Boniface, Chicago, IL
 1976 - 1977 Bookkeeper; St. Boniface, Chicago, IL
 1977 - 1983 Librarian and Bookkeeper; St. Boniface, Chicago, IL
 1983 - 1986 Retired; St. Boniface, Chicago, IL
 1986 - 1993 Retired; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
 1993 - 2000 Retired, Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Wake: Thursday, December 7, 2000, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wake Service: Thursday, December 7, 2000, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels
Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, December 7, 2000, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels
Burial: Saturday, December 9, 2000, 9:30 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery,
 Romeoville, IL
Interment S8-L335-G1, Resurrection Cemetery

Survived by: Agnes Yeager, sister, and Nieces and Nephews.

Rest in Peace, Sister Clarine