

Alleluia!

Sister Jane Marie Meara, OSF

Jane Marie Meara was born in Columbus, Ohio, on February 16, 1912, to Hilda (Hinterschied) and James Thomas Meara. She was the oldest of seven children and was baptized at St. Dominic Church. Five of her siblings preceded her in death, Marjorie, Rhea, Elizabeth, Lyda and Thomas. Her brother, Jim, and her sister-in-law Blanche are living in Florida. Her early school years were spent in Columbus, attending St. Dominic Grade School and St. Mary High School. Jane worked for a number of years before entering the convent from St. John the Evangelist Parish in 1936. Jane was received as a novice in 1937, and was given the name of Sister Mary Tharla. She kept this name until the late 60's at which time she resumed the use of her baptismal name, Jane Marie.

Sister Jane Marie was very grateful that she had the opportunity to finish her college degree at the College of St. Francis before she began her mission life. She majored in English and minored in French and Latin. Her teaching career began at St. Francis De Sales High School in Chicago and moved on to many varied assignments and places in the states of Illinois and Ohio. As Sister Jane Marie commented many times, "I am so happy doing what is asked of me. Obedience is an opportunity for me to help where I am needed and serve the various needs of our church and our world." Sister Jane Marie furthered her education by receiving an M.A. degree from the Catholic University of America and doing further work at Loyola University in Chicago. Whether she was a teacher, a principal at St. Francis Academy here in Joliet or principal at St. Peter High School in Mansfield Ohio, or Dean of Students at the College of St. Francis, she served with enthusiasm and dedication. Sister Jane Marie also ministered as a Councilor on the Governing Board of the congregation from 1962-1968, served as secretary at St. Mary School in Columbus, volunteered at the Will-Grundy Clinic and in many areas at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home after she moved there in 1996.



Several of Jane Marie's writings were published in *Burnished Gold*, volume two, a publication of student work at the College of St. Francis in 1938. Her first entry entitled "Words" spoke of her love for words, her love for learning, the delight she felt for imagery. She said, "Words are linked with joy and sorrow. Words are the very substance of so many of the important things of life." These thoughts rang true in Jane Marie's love of reading, in her love of the written word. She was one who enjoyed reading various types of books and articles and shared this passion with Sister Margaret Ann as she read to her and told her about the books that were available on tape.

In another writing in her files, Sister Jane Marie promised loyalty and fidelity to the will of the community. We all know how faithful and interested Sister Jane Marie was in any project undertaken by the congregation and showed her interest and honest questioning when she approached someone in leadership. She was always curious about how things were going and promised her support to pray and help in any way that she could. We thank God for Sister Jane Marie and for the love and care she showed to all of us. Together with her brother Jim and his wife Blanche, her nieces and nephews, her classmates, Sisters Rosita Renchen, Rose Spatny, Pauline Ann Furiel, and Johanna Didier, and her dear friend, Sister Margaret Ann Zimmerman, we pray that she may rest in peace. As we mourn Sister Jane Marie's passing to her new heavenly home, may we continue to pray for all those whose lives she touched. And in a round of thankfulness for her we say, Amen. Alleluia.

Sister Jane Marie Meara, OSF

February 16, 1912 — January 31, 2006

Born: February 16, 1912, Columbus, Ohio
Parents: James T. Meara and Hilda M. Hinterschied
Postulancy: September 8, 1936
Novitiate: August 12, 1937
First Profession: August 12, 1939
Final Profession: August 12, 1942
Entered New Life: January 31, 2006

Ministry History

1939-1940 Full Time Student, College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1940-1945 Teacher and Advisor, High School: St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL
1945-1946 Assistant Registrar, Instructor: College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1946-1947 Assistant Dean of Students, Instructor: College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1947-1949 Assistant Dean of Students, Freshman Advisor: College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1949-1958 Dean of Students: College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1958-1962 Superior of House, Vice-President: College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1962-1968 Second Councilor: St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
1968-1974 Principal: St. Francis Academy: Joliet, IL
1974-1977 Principal: St. Peter High School: Mansfield, OH
1977-1985 Secretary: St. Mary School, Columbus, OH
1985-1992 Administrator of Buildings: Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL
1992-1996 Volunteer: Will / Grundy Medical Clinic
1996-2004 Volunteer: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL
2004-2006 Special Ministry/Retired

Wake: Friday, February 3, 2006, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wake Service: Friday, February 3, 2006, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Mass of Christian Burial Friday, February 3, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Burial Saturday, February 4, 2006, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Interment: S8-L5-G6 Resurrection Cemetery
Predeceased by: Her parents James T. Meara and Hilda M. Hinterschied; her sisters, Marjorie, Rhea, Elizabeth and Lyda; and her brother Thomas
Survived by: Her brother, James (Blanche) Meara, nieces and nephews

Rest in Peace, Sister Jane Marie