

# Alleluia!

Sister Margaret Mary Miner, OSF



Sister Margaret Mary Miner was born in Joliet, Illinois, on May 11, 1922, to Charles and Nellie Mae Layman Miner, later Churchill. She was preceded in death by her brother Robert. She is survived by her brother Layman Edward and her sister Marilee.

Margaret's father died in March of 1927 when she was not quite five years old. Though her parents were not Catholic, she went to Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, where she first met our Sisters and graduated from elementary school. She later graduated from St. Francis Academy. It was during her high school years that she converted to Catholicism and was baptized in 1937 at Guardian Angel Home. Sister Julia is listed as her guardian during this time.

After graduating from high school, Margaret temporarily moved to Chicago and spent a year working as a domestic. On September 8, 1941, she returned to Joliet and entered the Postulancy. Upon being received into the Novitiate on August 12, 1942, Margaret received the name Sister Mary Placid. When given the option after Vatican II, she returned to her baptismal name.

After professing vows on August 12, 1944, Margaret began her 32 years of ministry in education. She taught mainly primary grades at various schools in Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. This included five years at St. Pascal's in Chicago, Illinois, and a total of six years at Immaculate Conception in Columbus, Ohio. When she retired from classroom teaching, she spent six years in pastoral and director of religious education work in parishes. She also tutored for ten years in St. Francis Education Center.

Margaret especially enjoyed teaching reading, and she was known as a patient and kind teacher. She also loved preparing students for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Sister Margaret Mary was a well-educated woman. She earned a Bachelor of Arts with a major in English from the College of St. Francis, a certificate from the Seraphic Institute of Theology for Sisters and a Master of Arts in Theology from the University of Dayton in Ohio. To keep herself updated, she also attended various courses and workshops throughout her ministerial career.

Throughout her life, Margaret was also an accomplished seamstress and talented needlewoman. After retiring from active ministry, she spent countless hours doing needlepoint, counted cross-stitch, afghans and crewel embroidery. She stitched many beautiful pieces of art in the form of pictures, pillows and other pieces to benefit the Congregation's development program.

Margaret Mary's life was not an easy one. Over the course of years, she suffered many physical and mental infirmities. For the past several years as she battled cancer, she kept a positive attitude. She had done this throughout her life and was indeed an example to all of us. She also participated in the Rush Religious Alzheimer's Study and is our first Sister in that Study to die.

After the Motherhouse closed in 2003, Margaret Mary moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. It was there on Thursday, March 4, 2004, that she lost her valiant struggle with cancer and peacefully went home to her God.

Sister Margaret Mary, we thank you for the 62 years you spent with us as teacher, sister, lover of life and friend. As you begin eternity with the God you served so lovingly and faithfully, we ask that you remember us, your family, your friends, your Franciscan Sisters. Amen. Alleluia!

**Sister Margaret Mary Miner, OSF**  
**11 May 1922 - 4 March 2004**

*Born:* May 11, 1922; Joliet, Illinois 839  
*Parents:* Charles Miner and Nellie (Layman) Miner Churchill  
*Entered From:* Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, Illinois  
*Postulancy:* September 8, 1941  
*Novitiate:* August 12, 1942  
*Profession:* August 12, 1944  
*Entered New Life:* Thursday, March 4, 2004; Our Lady of Angels at 2:00 p.m.

**Ministry History**

<p>1944 - 1948  1948 - 1950  1950 - 1951  1951 - 1952  1952 - 1957  1957 - 1958  1958 - 1959  1959 - 1961  1961 - 1963  1963 - 1966  1966 - 1969  1969 - 1971  1971 - 1972  1972 - 1977  1977 - 1978  1978 - 1979  1979 - 1980  1980 - 1982  1982 - 1983  1983 - 1984  1984 - 1985  1985 - 1986  1986 - 1988  1988 - 1992  1992 - 1994  1994 - 1998  1998 - 2003  2003 - 2004</p>	<p>Teacher, Grades 1 &amp; 2; Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH  Teacher, Grade 1; St. Raymond, Joliet, IL  Teacher, Grades 1 &amp; 2; St. Clement, Chicago, IL  Teacher, Grade 1 &amp; 2; St. Joseph, Freeport, IL  Teacher Grade 2; St. Pascal, Chicago, IL  Teacher, Grade 2; St. Joseph, Elgin, IL  Teacher, Grade 2; Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH  Teacher; Grade 1; St. Jude, Joliet, IL  Teacher, Grade 1; Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH  Teacher, Grades 1, 2 &amp; 3; St. Stephen, Streator, IL  Teacher, Grades 1 &amp; 3; St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH  Teacher, Grade 4; Holy Family, Joliet, IL  Recuperation/work; Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  Tutoring and Activities; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL  Teacher, Grade 2; St. Mary, Shelby, OH  Teacher, Grade 5; St. Mary, Marion, OH  Teacher, Grade 4; St. Joseph, Joliet, IL  Pastor Assistant; St. Luke, Danville, OH  Seamstress/beautician; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL  Clerical work/Teacher; Mt. Carmel Parish, Joliet, IL  Sabbatical; Westmont, IL  Teacher; Grand Traverse Catholic Schools, Traverse, MI  Clerical work; Catholic Charities, Romeoville, IL  Director of Elementary Religious Education; Our Lady of the Rosary, Medford, WI  Volunteer in Pastoral Services; Silver Cross Hospital, Joliet, IL  Tutor; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL  Volunteer; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL  Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL</p>
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*Wake:* Monday, March 8, 2004, 2 - 6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Wake Service:* Monday, March 8, 2004, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Mass of Christian Burial:* Monday, March 8, 2004, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Burial:* Tuesday, March 9; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.  
to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL  
S8 - L326 - G5

*Survived by:* Brother Layman Edward (Arlene) Churchill, and sister, Marilee (Otis) Beddingfield, nieces and nephews.

**Rest in Peace, Sister Margaret Mary**