

Alleluia!

Sister Miriam Clare Roesler, OSF



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Sister Miriam Clare Roesler was born on September 18, 1916, in Toledo, Ohio to Mathias and Mary Magdalen (Khl) Roesler. She was baptized Agnes Helen on October 1, 1916, at St. James Parish in Toledo, Ohio. Agnes was one of six children. She had three sisters, Eva, Margaret and Elizabeth (Sister Marie De Lourdes, OSU) and two brothers, Mathias and Charles. All of them preceded her in death. Sister Theresa Fifer, one of our Joliet Franciscans, is her cousin. She is also survived by nieces and nephews.

At the age of 16, Agnes began her postulancy on September 8, 1933. She began her novitiate on August 12, 1934, receiving the name of Sister Miriam Clare. Her celebration of first vows and final vows followed in succession in 1936 and 1939.

From her earliest days in community, Miriam Clare was known for her deep peace, cheerfulness and humble spirit. Mother Thomasine and many other formation personnel spoke so highly of her in their earliest letters, and we have continued to hear similar accolades about Sister Miriam Clare. Even though she wrote in one of her early letters asking for acceptance to our congregation, "I am neither an artist or a poet..." we know that we have seen quite the opposite come to fruition.

Sister Miriam Clare has been known throughout her history for her novel (the Who-dun-it, as she called it), her articles in monthly magazines such as the *Magnificat* and *Ave Maria*, her story of "Meet Bonnie Bee" that was set to music, her children's book about the life of the Blessed Virgin, entitled *Holy Mary, Mother of God*, her gift to us of *The Complete Consort Dancing*

Together, and her many beautiful and reflective poems. We remember the many gifts that Sister Miriam Clare shared with us. This June, she wrote a beautiful poem about Jubilee and shared it with our very current 2004 Jubilarians. Just the afternoon before she died, Sister Maria Pesavento and I presented her poem about the transitions of the University to St. Francis to Michael Vinciguerra, the President of USF. We had talked about having this poem framed and presented to USF at a small ceremony at which Sister Miriam Clare would be honored, but God had other plans for Sister Miriam Clare.

On Wednesday morning, June 23, 2004, while walking through the halls of Guardian Angel Home, Sister Miriam Clare had a heart attack. She was taken to Provena St. Joseph Medical Center and returned home to her God in a quiet, peaceful manner, so much in the way she lived each day of her life.

Many of us have had the privilege of having Sister Miriam Clare as an English teacher at St. Francis Academy or at the College of St. Francis, as a friend, as a mentor. Her spirit of love, adventure, and acceptance will continue in our hearts for many years. As she said in an early writing, "I could sing the Te Deum each day of my life."

And so, Sister Miriam Clare, we sing the Te Deum with you, thanking our God for the gift of you, for all the love and care you shared with each one of us. We pray that you and all our sisters who have preceded us in death will forever sing God's praises. Amen. Alleluia!

Sister Miriam Clare Roesler OSF
18 September 1916 - 23 June 2004

Born: September 18, 1916; Toledo, Ohio
Parents: Mathias and Mary Magdalen (Kohl) Roesler
Entered From: Immaculate Conception, Toledo, Ohio
Postulancy: September 8, 1933
Novitiate: August 12, 1934
Profession: August 12, 1936
Entered New Life: Wednesday, June 23, 2004; Provena St. Joseph Medical Center, 11:15 a.m.

Ministry History

1936 - 1938 Student; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1938 - 1944 English / History Teacher; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1944 - 1950 English / Journalism Teacher; St. Peter High School, Mansfield, OH
1950 - 1954 English Professor; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1954 - 1955 Graduate Student; Catholic University, Washington, D.C.
1955 - 1957 English Professor; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1957 - 1959 Graduate Student; Catholic University, Washington, D.C.
1959 - 1962 English Professor; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL; and
Graduate Student; Catholic University, Washington, D.C.
1962 - 1969 English Professor; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1969 - 1981 English Professor; Carroll College, Helena, MT
1981 - 1982 Researcher / Writer; Holy Cross Convent, London, England
1982 - 1983 Visiting Professor of English; Sogang University, Seoul, Korea
1983 - 1984 English Professor (PT); College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1984 - 1988 English Professor; Sogang University, Seoul, Korea
1988 - 1991 English Professor; American University of Les Cayes, Les Cayes, Haiti
1991 - 1997 Free Lance Writer; Motherhouse, Joliet, IL
1997 - 2003 Semi-Retired, Free Lance Writer; Motherhouse, Joliet, IL
2003 - 2004 Retired; Guardian Angel Home, 2 South Community, Joliet, IL

Wake: Monday, June 28, 2004, 2 - 6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Wake Service: Monday, June 28, 2004, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Mass of Christian Burial: Monday, June 28, 2004, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Burial: Tuesday, June 29; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 10:00 a.m. to
Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Sec 8 - L363 - G9

Survived by: Sr. Theresa Fifer, OSF, cousin; nieces and nephews.

Rest in Peace, Sister Miriam Clare