

Alleluia!

Sister Lillian Ruettiger, OSF



Sister Lillian Ruettiger was born on January 9, 1918 in Joliet, Illinois to Eugene and Theresa Sievert Ruettiger. Baptized Lillian Rosella at St. John the Baptist Church, she was one of ten children. Her five older brothers: Robert, Leo, Sylvester, Lambert and Bernard preceded her in death. Lillian is survived by her sisters, Eileen and Elizabeth and her brothers, Daniel and Walter.

Lillian graduated from St. Bernard Grade School in 1931 and Joliet Township High School in 1935. After entering the Congregation, Lillian earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in history and a Master of Arts Degree in the Seraphic Institute of Theology at the University of St. Francis, Joliet.

On September 5, 1939, Lillian entered the Postulancy. On becoming a novice on August 12, 1940, Lillian received the name Sister Mary Roger. When given the opportunity after the Second Vatican Council, she returned to her baptismal name.

After profession of vows on August 12, 1942, Sister Lillian began 27 years of service as a teacher in elementary schools in Ohio and Illinois. This included five years at St. Pascal, Chicago, four years at St. John the Baptist, Joliet, and two years at her home parish, St. Bernard, Joliet. Lillian also served for three years as attendance clerk at St. Francis Academy, Joliet, and worked in the Congregation's Business Office for a total of seven years.

In 1981, she returned to St. Bernard Church, Joliet, where she spent the next 14 years of her life as pastoral associate and minister to the elderly of the parish. She once wrote that it was her "great privilege" to minister in her own parish. As she stated, "I know I am relating to the people I serve and am helping them by being there when they are lonely or sick." During this time Lillian worked under two different pastors; it was Fr. O'Connor who lovingly called her "Mother Superior", a name that could often be found in the Sunday bulletins. It was from here

that she retired from active ministry in 1995, though she always kept in touch with what was happening in the parish.

Though battling depression for many years, Lillian basically enjoyed life. She liked doing needlework and was very competitive at playing cards, ping-pong and Scrabble. While volunteering at a YMCA on the south side of Chicago, she even learned to play pool. She also enjoyed watching sports, especially football, basketball and baseball.

Above all, Lillian loved being a Sister of St. Francis. She liked praying the Office with others and often stated that her ministry these last few years was praying for the Congregation and for peace in the world.

During the last few years, Lillian battled Parkinson's disease and because of this, she often rode an exercise bike to keep herself limber. Last August 25, she fell and broke her hip. After a short hospital stay, she was admitted to Rosewood Care Center, Joliet, for follow-up therapy. It was there in the early afternoon of September 25, that Lillian very quietly and peacefully went home to her God.

Sister Lillian, we thank you for sharing your life and talents with us these 62 years. In 1940, before entering the novitiate, you wrote to Mother Thomasine that your "greatest desire" was to have the "grace to persevere in this life until death." As you begin your eternity with your ever-faithful God who granted you this grace, remember us, your family, your friends, your Franciscan sisters.

Amen! Alleluia!

Sister Lillian Ruettiger, OSF
9 January 1918 - 25 September 2002

Born: January 9, 1918; Joliet, Illinois #23
Parents: Eugene and Theresa (Sievert) Ruettiger
Entered From: St. Bernard Parish, Joliet, Illinois
Postulancy: September 5, 1939
Novitiate: August 12, 1940
Profession: August 12, 1942
Entered New Life: Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2002; Rosewood Care Center, Joliet, IL at 1:35 p.m.

Ministry History

1942 - 1945 Teacher, Grades 2 & 3; Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH
 1945 - 1948 Teacher, Grades 2 & 4; St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL
 1948 - 1953 Teacher, Grades 5 & 6; St. Pascal, Chicago, IL
 1953 - 1955 Teacher, Grades 5 & 6; St. Bernard, Joliet, IL
 1955 - 1956 Teacher, Grade 7; St. Joseph, Elgin IL
 1956 - 1958 Teacher, Grades 5 & 6; Immaculate Conception, Mt. Vernon, IL
 1958 - 1959 Teacher, Grade 6; St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH
 1959 - 1963 Teacher, Grade 7; St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL
 1963 - 1965 Teacher, Grade 4; Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH
 1965 - 1966 Teacher, Grade 4; Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH
 1966 - 1969 Teacher, Grade 4; St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL
 1969 - 1970 Residence; St. Raymond Cathedral, Joliet, IL
 1970 - 1974 Records Clerk in Business Office; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
 1974 - 1977 Attendance Clerk; St. Francis Academy, Joliet IL
 1977 Parish Minister; St. Procopius, Chicago, IL
 1977 - 1980 Business Office Staff; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
 1980 - 1981 Secretary; St. Coleman, Pompano Beach, FL
 1981 - 1995 Pastoral Ministry; St. Bernard Church, Joliet, IL
 1995 - 2002 Special Ministry and retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Wake: Sunday, September 29, 2002, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Wake Service: Sunday, September 29, 2002, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Mass of Christian Burial: Sunday, September 29, 2002, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Burial: Monday, September 30, 2002; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.
 to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL

Interment S8 - L334 - G8

Survived by: Brothers, Daniel (Elizabeth) Ruettiger, Walter (Patricia) Ruettiger and sisters Eileen (Sam) Paul, Elizabeth (William) Joutras-Brewer, sisters-in-law, Marguerite Ruettiger, Leona Surges, Mary Ruettiger, Mary Agnes Ruettiger and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Rest in Peace, Sister Lillian