

# Alleluia!

## Sister Alfred Marie Russell, OSF



Sister Alfred Marie Russell was born in Boston, Massachusetts on April 26, 1912. Named Lillian, she was the oldest of three daughters born to Dr. Alfred P. and Maybelle Grant Russell. Her sister, Inez, preceded her in death. Her sister, Georgine Hill, who resides in Bermuda, survives her. Lillian was raised in the Episcopalian faith of her father, a noted dentist. In 1940, she converted to Catholicism and was baptized at St. John's Church in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

After graduating from the Girls' Latin School in 1930, Lillian earned her Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in chemistry from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. In 1936, she earned a Master of Science degree in organic chemistry from Howard University in Washington, D.C. and in 1947 a Master of Science degree in physical chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA, where she was among 80 women out of an enrollment of 5,000.

From 1948 to 1954, Lillian worked as a research chemist at the University of Illinois and as a special research assistant in the State Water Survey Department. During this time she became active in the Newman Foundation, where she used her leadership abilities for the good of others. In 1949, she founded the Newman Foundation Christocentric Arts Festival, which assembled and displayed religious art submitted by artists throughout the United States. Father Edward Duncan, chaplain of the Newman Foundation, once wrote that Lillian was a "most energetic, capable and intelligent woman," with a "forceful personality."

It was during this time that Lillian first met some of our Sisters who were studying at the University of Illinois. She once said that because of these Sisters she felt drawn to us. Though almost 42 years old, Lillian entered the Postulancy in January of 1954. On August 13, 1954, Lillian was received into the Novitiate and was given the name Sister Alfred Marie. She professed first vows on August 12, 1956.

Sister Alfred Marie's years of ministry began in 1955 at St. Francis Academy where, for two years, she taught science and mathematics. From 1957 to 1960, she was on the faculty of the College of St. Francis. In 1960, Sister Alfred Marie was asked to study pharmacology. She received her Bachelor of Science from the

University of Illinois College of Pharmacy in 1963. She did her post-graduate residency at St. Mary's Hospital and Cardinal Glennon Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, and St. Francis Hospital in Blue Island, Illinois. After becoming a registered Pharmacist in 1964, Sister Alfred Marie spent six years as the Director of Pharmacy at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. In the early seventies, she joined the National Office of Black Catholics. From 1972 to 1980, she worked as pharmacist at Veterans Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Sister Alfred Marie was a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists, the Midwest Association of Sister Hospital Pharmacists, of which she was a Past President, the National Association of Women Religious and National Black Sisters Conference.

In 1982, Sister Alfred Marie came back to Joliet where she volunteered at Crisis Line of Will-Grundy Counties until her retirement to Our Lady of Angels in 1988.

Though her health was not always good, Sister Alfred Marie kept as active as possible. She never lost her love of learning and always enjoyed a good conversation, visiting with friends and classmates, and a good meal.

On Saturday afternoon, December 22, after enjoying the Sisters' Christmas Party, Sister Alfred Marie returned to her room. When someone checked on her just before 9:00 p.m., they found that Sister Alfred Marie, with a smile on her face, had quietly gone home to her God.

Sister Alfred Marie we thank you for your 47 years of service as teacher, pharmacist, sister and friend. As you begin your eternity with the God you served so faithfully throughout your life, remember us your family, your friends, your Franciscan Sisters. Amen. Alleluia.

**Sister Alfred Marie Russell, OSF**  
**26 April 1912 - 22 December 2001**

*Born:* April 26, 1912, Boston, Massachusetts  
*Parents:* Alfred P. and Maybelle C. (Grant) Russell  
*Entered From:* St. John Parish, Roxbury, Massachusetts  
*Postulancy:* January 30, 1954  
*Novitiate:* August 13, 1954  
*Profession:* August 12, 1956  
*Entered New Life:* Saturday, December 22, 2001, at Our Lady of Angels at 8:45 p.m.

**Ministry History**

1955 - 1957 Teacher; Math, Chemistry & Physics; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL  
 1957 - 1960 Teacher; Chemistry & Mathematics; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL  
 1960 - 1963 Student; School of Pharmacy; University of Illinois, Chicago, IL  
 1963 - 1964 Pharmacy Intern; St. Mary Hospital, St. Louis, MO  
 1964 - 1971 Pharmacist; Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
 1971 - 1980 Pharmacist; Veterans Hospital, Washington, D.C.  
 1980 - 1982 Student; Graduate School, Mundelein College, Chicago, IL  
 1982 - 1988 Retired; Crisis Line Counselor, Joliet, IL  
 1988 - 2001 Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

*Wake:* Friday, December 28, 2001, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Wake Service:* Friday, December 28, 2001, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Mass of Christian Burial:* Friday, December 28, 2001, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Burial:* Saturday, December 29, 2001; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.  
 to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL  
*Interment* S8 - L334 - G3

*Survived by:* Georgine Mary Russell Hill, sister, and nieces and nephews.

**Rest in Peace, Sister Alfred Marie**