



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

On January 3, 2011, as our sister, Miriam Patrice Tierney, prepared to make her journey home to God, these words from the Prophet Isaiah and the Gospel of Matthew echoed in churches and chapels throughout the world: *“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the shadow of death, a light has shone”* (Is 9:1) and *“Turn to God with all your heart, the Kingdom of heaven is close at hand* (Matt 4:17).” For one who faithfully lived the gospel way of life, what better words could lead her home to the Lord of Light and Love?

Born on August 13, 1922, to Frank and Irene (Le Gere) Tierney, Florence Mary Tierney was baptized and confirmed at St. Brendan Church in Chicago, Illinois. The eldest of three sisters, she learned to care for others spontaneously and generously from any early age. Attending Assumption Parish School from 1928-1933, she completed junior high school at Altgeld School in 1936 and graduated from Parker High School in 1940. She worked as a factory clerk for several months and on September 8, 1941, she became a postulant with the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate. She entered the novitiate the following year and on August 12, 1942, she received her religious name, Sr. Miriam Patrice. Making her first profession on August 12, 1944, she soon embarked on a 35-year long career as beloved primary grade teacher. In May of 1947, she wrote to Mother Immaculate saying: *“I believe sincerely that God has called me to become a Sister of St. Francis. After having renewed my vows for three years, I’m convinced it is the life for me.”* On August 12th, she was perpetually professed. She earned her Bachelor’s degree from the College of St. Francis in 1961 and did additional coursework in education at Central Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois. Over the years, Sr. Miriam Patrice embraced the many ups and downs of religious life and ministry with love, patience and humor.

Alleluia!



Sister Miriam Patrice Tierney, OSF

In the “third chapter” of her life, Sr. Miriam Patrice brought enthusiasm and energy to a variety of ministries at Our Lady of Angels from 1978-1992. She served as an assistant in the Activity Department, as a receptionist and as a trusted companion to many sisters. From 1992-1996, she enthusiastically responded to the invitation to tutor Native American children at Holy Family/St. Francis at Red Cliff/Bayfield, Wisconsin. These proved to be some of the happiest years of her life. Upon her return to Joliet in 1996, she dedicated the final fourteen years of her life to community service and the ministry of prayer.

With gentleness, simplicity, and kindness, Sr. Miriam Patrice joyfully lived her Franciscan vocation. An unwavering witness to the mystery of the Eternal Infancy of God, she devoted herself to cultivating in the hearts and minds of young and old alike, a grace-filled confidence that God is truly with us. With childlike wonder and the wisdom of an ancient soul, she inspired in others, as only an artist and a dreamer can, an attentiveness to the beauty, goodness and truth that is both within and around us. Leading by example, she taught us how to read the skies and how to follow the Star – the Star that guides us to a tender God who awaits us with arms wide open.

Amen, Alleluia!

Sister Miriam Patrice Tierney, OSF

August 13, 1922 — January 3, 2011

<i>Born:</i>	August 13, 1922
<i>Parents:</i>	Frank and Irene (Le Gere) Tierney
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 8, 1941
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1942
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1944
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 12, 1947
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	January 3, 2011

Ministry History

1944-1949	Teacher: Grades 1, 2, 3, St. Dionysius, Benton Missouri
1949-1953	Teacher: Grades 3 and 4, Corpus Christi, Columbus, Ohio
1953-1956	Teacher: Grade 2, SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, Illinois
1956-1958	Teacher: Grade 2, Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, Ohio
1958-1959	Teacher: Grades 2 and 3, St. Edward, Ashland, Ohio
1959-1960	Teacher: Grade 4, Immaculate Conception, Toledo, Ohio
1960-1961	Teacher: Grade 1, St. Mary, Columbus, Ohio
1961-1964	Teacher: Grade 1, Mansfield, Ohio
1964-1966	Teacher: Grade 1, Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby
1966-1967	Teacher: Grade 2, St. Cyril, Chicago
1967-1972	Teacher: Grades 1 and 2, Sacred Heart, Lillyville, Illinois
1972-1976	Teacher: Grades 1 and 2, SS. Cyril and Methodius, Chicago
1976-1978	Teacher: Grade 3, St. Rita, Chicago
1978-1987	Activity Aide: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois
1987-1988	Companion/Receptionist: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
1988-1992	Receptionist: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
1992-1996	Tutor: Holy Family/St. Francis, Bayfield, Wisconsin
1996-2000	Volunteer: Development Office, Motherhouse, Joliet
2000-2003	Community Service: Motherhouse, Joliet
2003-2011	Community Service: Our Lady of Angels

<i>Wake:</i>	Thursday, January 6, 2011, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Thursday, January 6, 2011, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Thursday, January 6, 2011, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Friday, January 7, 2011, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 361, Grave 4, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents, Frank and Irene (Le Gere) Tierney; her sisters, Lucille Angone and Annette Gallagher
<i>Survived by:</i>	Many nieces, nephews and cousins

Rest in Peace, Sister Miriam Patrice