

# Alleluia!

*Sister M. Annunciata Tokar, OSF*



Sister Annunciata Tokar was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on September 16, 1908 to Stephen and Anna Stofko Tokar. Baptized Ludmilla Cecilia at St. Stephen's Church in Johnstown, she was one of 12 children. Ludmilla had seven brothers: Albert, Alex, Anthony, Francis, John, Joseph, Stephen and four sisters: Anna, Helen, Irene and Mary. Today only Anthony survives, along with numerous nieces and nephews. Our departed Sisters Edward and Monica Gmuca were cousins of Sister Annunciata.

Ludmilla attended St. Stephen's Grade School. After completing her schooling, she worked for several years. She once wrote that her "vocation was not made clear" to her right away, but "at length" she recognized the call and "without hesitation", at the age of 24, on February 2, 1933, she entered the postulancy. Ludmilla was in Joliet for just one week when she received the news of the death of her father. She returned from his funeral "with more confidence" that she wanted to be a religious. On August 12, 1933 Ludmilla entered the novitiate and was given the name Sister Mary Annunciata.

After first profession of vows on August 12, 1935 Sister Annunciata began her 51 years of domestic service at various places in Illinois, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. She spent 11 years at Marybrook Academy in Maumee, Ohio, a place she especially loved because of the beautiful grounds and the feisty girls. In 1967 Nuncie, as she was affectionately called, began her 19 years of work as an aide and housekeeper at Our Lady of Angels.

Sister Annunciata worked hard and she worked long hours, but she loved her work because of the people she served. Nuncie had a dry sense of humor, liked having a good time and never missed a party. Franciscan hospitality was a virtue she faithfully practiced.

Sister Annunciata loved our Congregation and was always grateful for all that was given to or done for her. In some ways, she was ahead of her time. She always liked keeping in contact with our former sisters and all were welcomed by her.

In 1986, Sister Annunciata retired from full time ministry. She had more time to read, to embroider and to pray. As her eyesight failed and Nuncie could no longer read, her life became more difficult. But she never lost her sense of humor. She loved company and would often call out, so that someone would stop by and say a prayer with her.

This past week Sister Annunciata suffered from the flu. Early on the morning of January 2<sup>nd</sup>, she was checked by the nursing staff and her vital signs were good, though her breathing was labored. However, when the staff again checked on her just before 2:00 a.m., they found that Sister Annunciata had quietly gone back home to her God.

Many years ago, Sister Annunciata wrote that her "holy vows" were her "greatest incentive" in her ministry of cooking, baking, cleaning and service to others. Nuncie, we thank you for sharing your talents, your love, your very life with us these 67 years. As you begin your new life in God's presence, continue to remember us, your family, your friends, your Franciscan sisters. Amen! Alleluia!

**Sister M. Annunciata Tokar, OSF**  
**16 September 1908 - 2 January 2001**

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*Born:* September 16, 1908, Johnstown, Pennsylvania  
*Parents:* Stephen and Anna (Stofko) Tokar  
*Entered From:* St. Stephen, Johnstown, Pennsylvania  
*Postulancy:* February 2, 1933  
*Novitiate:* August 12, 1933  
*Profession:* August 12, 1935  
*Entered New Life:* Tuesday, January 2, 2001, at Our Lady of Angels at 1:45 a.m.

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**Ministry History**

1935 - 1937 Domestic Ministry; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL  
1937 - 1940 Domestic Ministry; St. Mary, Columbus, OH  
1940 - 1946 Domestic Ministry; SS Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL  
1946 - 1947 Domestic Ministry; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL  
1947 - 1948 Domestic Ministry; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL  
1948 - 1949 Domestic Ministry; St. Raymond, Joliet, IL  
1949 - 1950 Domestic Ministry; St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA  
1950 - 1951 Domestic Ministry; SS Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL  
1951 - 1953 Domestic Ministry; St. Peter's, Mansfield, OH  
1953 - 1959 Domestic Ministry; Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH  
1959 - 1964 Food Services Director; Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH  
1964 - 1966 Domestic Ministry; Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL  
1966 - 1967 Domestic Ministry; St. Mary's, Columbus, OH  
1967 - 1986 Nurses' Aide; Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
1986 - 2001 Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet

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*Wake:* Friday, January 5, 2001, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Wake Service:* Friday, January 5, 2001, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels  
*Mass of Christian Burial:* Friday, January 5, 2001, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels  
*Burial:* Saturday, January 6, 2001; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.  
to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL  
*Interment* S8-L335-G8, Resurrection Cemetery

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*Survived by:* Anthony Tokar, brother, and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Rest in Peace, Sister Annunciata**