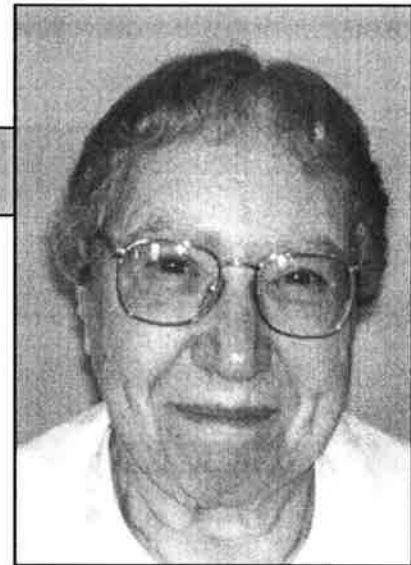


# Alleluia!

## Sister Mary Jo Vitale, OSF



Sister Mary Jo Vitale was born in Chicago, Illinois on January 2, 1915. Baptized Josephine, she was the only daughter of Philip and Carmella Bonomo Vitale. Her four brothers, Charles, Harold, Philip and Michael, preceded her in death.

Josephine received her elementary education at Visitation Grade School in Chicago. She attended Sacred Heart High School in Englewood, where she became acquainted with our sisters. After entering the Postulancy on September 8, 1932, she graduated from St. Francis Academy.

On August 12, 1933, Josephine became a novice and received the name Sister Mary Philip. When given the opportunity to return to her baptismal name, she chose to be known as Sister Mary Jo.

Sister Mary Jo received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of St. Francis and through the years attended the Seraphic Institute of Theology, specialty courses in reading at John Carroll in Cleveland, Ohio, and various workshops, including one in literacy training.

After profession of vows on August 12, 1935, Mary Jo began her 43 years in elementary education, serving in parish schools in Illinois and Ohio. Through the years she taught grades 1 through 6, including six years at SS. Peter and Paul in Chicago and a total of ten years at St. Pascal in Chicago.

In our Congregation's publication of 1997, *A Patchwork Quilt*, Mary Jo wrote, "Sixty-one years ago I said good-bye to my classmates and Sisters at St. Francis Convent in Joliet to become one of the hundreds of teaching Sisters who would be welcoming teary-eyed or smiling students into their classrooms. Joy, mingled with apprehension, filled my heart that first day at St. Pascal School in 1936, as I greeted 40 fourth grade smiling faces eager to meet their friends and their new teacher. I loved

my life at St. Pascal's and I loved every minute of every day of my teaching experience there."

After retiring from teaching in 1978, Mary Jo served as Secretary to the Dean of Students at St. Francis Academy, as Medical Records Clerical Assistant at Our Lady of Angels and as Librarian at St. Jude School in Joliet. Though while teaching she had tutored during the summer at St. Francis Learning Center, she spent 1987-88 and 1991-96 tutoring year round. Mary Jo once wrote, "I love teaching. It is rewarding to see the children progress and I'm happy because they are learning."

In 1997, Sister Mary Jo retired to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. She loved going up and down the halls greeting everyone and always had a smile on her face. Recently, she became more and more frail and on January 24, 2002, her earthly journey ended and she went home to her God.

During Initial Formation, Mary Jo was known as cheerful, obedient, good at her studies and diligent at work. Before her entrance, her pastor, Fr. Egan, wrote that she was a "bright and pious" girl. At the time of her Diamond Jubilee, she wrote that her favorite activity was "going to a quiet chapel and praying." And she could often be found there.

Sister Mary Jo, we thank you for the 69 years you spent with us as teacher, sister and friend. As you begin your eternity with the God you served so faithfully throughout the years, remember us your family, your friends, your Franciscan Sisters. Amen. Alleluia!

**Sister Mary Jo Vitale, O.S.F.**  
**2 January 1915 - 24 January 2002**

*Born:* January 2, 1915; Chicago, Illinois 818  
*Parents:* Philip and Helen (Bonomo) Vitale  
*Entered From:* Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago, Illinois  
*Postulancy:* September 8, 1932  
*Novitiate:* August 12, 1933  
*Profession:* August 12, 1935  
*Entered New Life:* Thursday, January 24, 2002, at Our Lady of Angels at 7:05 p.m.

**Ministry History**

1935 - 1939 & 1968 - 1971 Teacher; Grades 2, 3 & 4; St. Pascal, Chicago, IL  
 1939 - 1943 Teacher; Grades 1, 2 & 3; St. Mary, Rock Island, IL  
 1943 - 1949 Teacher; Grade 1; SS Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL  
 1949 - 1953 Teacher; Grade 1; St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH  
 1953 - 1954 Teacher; Grade 3; St. Joseph, Elgin, IL  
 1954 - 1955 & 1967 - 1968 Teacher; Grade 1 & 5; St. Paul the Apostle, Joliet, IL  
 1955 - 1958 Teacher; Grade 1; St. Pascal, Chicago, IL  
 1958 - 1962 Teacher; Grade 1; St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL  
 1962 - 1963 Teacher; Grade 2; Immaculate Conception, Toledo, OH  
 1963 - 1967 Teacher; Grades 1, 2 & 5; St. Pius X, Lombard, IL  
 1971 - 1974 Teacher; Grade 6; St. Ann, Lansing, IL  
 1974 - 1976 Teacher; Grade 4 & 6; St. Joseph, Elgin, IL  
 1976 - 1977 Teacher; Grade 5; Annunciation, Aurora, IL  
 1977 - 1978 Teacher; Grade 4 & 5; St. Paul the Apostle, Joliet, IL  
 1979 - 1980 Secretary to Dean of Students; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL  
 1980 - 1987 Clerical Assistant for Medical Records; Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
 1987 - 1988 Tutor; St. Francis Learning Center, Joliet, IL  
 1988 - 1991 Librarian; St. Jude School, Joliet, IL  
 1991 - 1996 Tutor; St. Francis Learning Center; Motherhouse, Joliet, IL  
 1996 - 1997 Community Service; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL  
 1997 - 2002 Retired; Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL

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

*Interment* S8 - L334 - G1

*Survived by:* Nieces and nephews.

**Rest in Peace, Sister Mary Jo**