

Alleluia!

Sister M. Clare Edward Whalen, OSF



Sister Clare Edward Whalen was born on January 12, 1923, in Peru, Illinois to Edward Vincent and Dorothy Geneva McLaughlin Whalen. She was baptized Mary Ann at St. Patrick Church in La Salle, Illinois and spent most of her childhood in the Ottawa area. Other than attending first grade at St. Patrick School in Joliet, Illinois, Mary Ann attended grade school at St. Columba and high school at St. Xavier Academy in Ottawa, Illinois. It was from St. Columba parish, after her graduation from the College of St. Francis, that Mary Ann entered the postulancy in Joliet, Illinois on September 4, 1945, at the age of 22.

Mary Ann was a star in many ways. Not only did she graduate Summa Cum Laude from the College but she was also “Miss College of St. Francis” in her senior year. She was featured as the main character in a movie made by our late Sister La Verne Relli entitled, *In the Service of the King*. This was a movie about a popular young girl (Mary Ann Whalen) who entered the convent.

Mary Ann became a novice on August 12, 1946, and received the name, Sister Mary Clare Edward. Her profession of temporary vows occurred in 1948 and her final profession in 1951. Sister Clare Edward, an only child, cherished religious life, and loved to share with her Franciscan sisters the stories of her childhood, such as the many hours she spent at the root beer stand built and managed by her father. She shared these many times with the sisters with whom she lived. Sister Clare Edward loved to pray, to read, to travel and to be with people of all ages. I am sure many of us have heard the stories of her many travels with her father, witnessed her dancing the Irish Jig at parties and other gatherings and shared laughter with her on many occasions. Sister Clare Edward often shared stories of special people in her life, such as John Peter Sartori, and told us what a blessing they were to her.

In addition to receiving her degree in Speech Pathology from Marquette University, she attended courses in the states and abroad. During her sabbatical, Sister Clare Edward visited various speech clinics in Dublin, Edinburgh, and London, learning new techniques and soaking in new ideas. Most of us associate Sister Clare Edward with her long tenure at the College of St. Francis as a speech pathologist and sign language teacher as well as Director of the Speech Clinic. She also was on staff at St. Joseph Hospital, primarily helping

children and stroke patients. She loved doing whatever she could to help people communicate. Even after she retired from the College, she operated her own speech clinic at the Motherhouse for many years.

When she retired to OLA, and then to Resurrection Life Center in Chicago and the Corinne Dolan Center in Chardon, Ohio, Sister Clare Edward made friends quickly and brought joy and laughter to residents and staff members alike. She was always generous, kind and caring to all. For many years our sisters have been able to travel to Assisi, Italy, to participate in the Franciscan pilgrimage. Most people have probably assumed this was because of the generosity of an outside donor. But it was actually a trust fund from Sister Clare Edward’s family that funded these experiences. She found this original way to combine her love for all things Franciscan and her love of travel as a gift to those she loved most on earth: our sisters. Her generosity continued even at death, for in April of 2000, Sister Clare Edward expressed a desire to be part of the Religious Orders’ Study conducted by the Rush Alzheimer’s Disease Center in Chicago. Therefore, after her death a brain autopsy was conducted and her anatomical gift of brain tissue will be used to further the research and study of Alzheimer’s Disease.

Sister Clare Edward, though dealing with the disease of Alzheimer’s, stayed active as long as she could. Until the day that she died, Sister Clare Edward was walking around the Dolan Center with her cherished and devoted care giver, Sister Mary Agnes Cross. It was on Friday evening, June 22, that Sister Clare Edward was called home to her God whom she loved so dearly and served so faithfully.

We remember all her special friends, her cousins and her Franciscan sisters who mourn her. We pray in a special way for Sister Mary Agnes Cross and the many people who cared for her these last years. We rejoice that she is now at peace in heaven with her mother and father, all her relatives and our sisters who have preceded her in death. Sister Clare Edward, we thank our God for the gift you have been in our life. Amen. Alleluia.

Sister M. Clare Edward Whalen, OSF
January 12, 1923 — June 22, 2007

<i>Born:</i>	January 12, 1923, in Peru, Illinois
<i>Parents:</i>	Edward V. and Dorothy G. (McLaughlin) Whalen
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 4, 1945
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1946
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1948
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 12, 1951
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	June 22, 2007

Ministry History

1948—1958	Instructor in Speech; Moderator of Forensics and Sodality: College of St. Francis, Joliet
1958—1959	Dean of Students; Administrative Council; Moderator: College of St. Francis
1959—1964	Director of Speech Clinic; Moderator of NFCCS; Forensics: College of St. Francis
1964—1973	Speech Department; Clinic: College of St. Francis
1973—1974	Study abroad; Foreign travel: University of Illinois
1974—1983	Instructor; Speech Pathology: College of St. Francis
1983—1984	Administrator: St. Francis Academy
1984—1986	Instructor; Public Speaking: College of St. Francis
1986—1988	Speech/Language Pathologist: St. Joseph Medical Center, Joliet
1988—1990	Speech/Language Pathologist: Private Practice, Motherhouse, Joliet
1990—1992	Speech/Language Pathologist; Instructor: Motherhouse, College of St. Francis, Joliet
1992—2002	Speech/Language Pathologist: Motherhouse, Joliet
2002—2007	Retired

<i>Wake:</i>	Wednesday, June 27, 2007, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Wake Service:</i>	Wednesday, June 27, 2007, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Wednesday, June 27, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Thursday, June 28, 2007, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
<i>Interment:</i>	S8-L6-G1 Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents Edward V. and Dorothy G. (McLaughlin) Whalen
<i>Survived by:</i>	Cousins.

Rest in Peace, Sister Clare Edward