

Sister M. Ephrem Wuchte, O.S.F.

765

Born: October 15, 1909
Parents: John and Mary (Meditz) Wuchte
Entered from: St. John Parish, Joliet, IL
Postulancy: September 3, 1924
Novitiate: August 12, 1925
Profession: August 12, 1927
Died: Thursday, April 16, 1998 at 9:15 a.m. at
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL



Ministry:

1927 - 1930 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 1
1930 - 1942 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 1
1942 - 1964 District Public School, Green Creek Community School,
Green Creek, IL, Grades 1, 2, 3, 4
1964 - 1965 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL, Grade 2
1965 - 1974 St. Bernard, Joliet, IL, Grade 1
1974 - 1975 St. Bernard, Joliet, IL, Director of Learning Resource Center
1975 - 1985 Residence: St. Francis Academy, ministry to the local community
1985 - 1998 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, retired, cancelled stamp
project for funds for Brazil

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Sunday, April 19, 1998
2-7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Sunday, April 19, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Monday, April 20, 1998 leaving Our Lady of Angels at
9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL,
S8-L338-G9

Survived by: her sister Sophie Stiglich of Joliet, IL, sister-in-law
Viola Wade of Crest Hill, IL and many nieces and nephews

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,
lif is not ended, but merely changed.*

Sister Ephrem Wuchte was born in Joliet, Illinois on October 15, 1909 to John and Mary Meditz Wuchte. She was baptized Mary Theresa at St. John the Baptist Church in Joliet. She was one of eight children. Their family was active in the life of the parish at St. John's. Mary Theresa attended and graduated from the parish school.

On September 3, 1924, Mary Theresa followed a dream she had had since she was a very young child and became a postulant with the Joliet Franciscan Sisters. The following August 12, 1925, Mary Theresa received the Franciscan habit as a novice and was given the name of Sister Mary Ephrem.

After first profession of vows on August 12, 1927, Sister Ephrem began her ministry of elementary education at St. Peter's Parish in Mansfield, Ohio. She next taught first grade for twelve years at St. Mary's Parish in Columbus, Ohio. In 1942, Sister Ephrem began teaching at Green Creek Community School, a rural public school near Effingham, Illinois. She served there for twenty-two years, guiding the learning experiences of the children and endearing herself to so many. After spending one year at Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Chicago, Sister Ephrem taught for ten years at St. Bernard's School in Joliet, before moving to Holy Family School in Joliet. She took special delight in preparing children for their First Holy Communion.

During her years as a teacher, Sister Ephrem spent summer vacation time helping others in various ways. She took care of the young boys at the orphanage of Guardian Angel Home. She taught at the reading centers at St. Bernard's and at St. Francis Convent in Joliet. She served as a tutor for the homebound and spent time visiting the families of the children. She also volunteered to cut and sort stamps to help raise money for the missions in Brazil.

After her formal days of teaching, Sister Ephrem resided at the St. Francis Academy convent and helped out with the household chores. In 1986, she moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. It was at this time that Sister Ephrem perfected her ministry of letter writing. Those who visited her room often found Sister Ephrem "presiding" at her small desk by the window answering small mounds of correspondence. In this ministry she offered a good word to someone who needed assistance, or prayerful support to the sick and the bereaved.

On Thursday of Easter Week, after joining the other residents at OLA for morning Mass and sharing breakfast with the sisters in the dining room, Sister Ephrem went to her room to rest a bit, because she wasn't feeling "just right." The aide who was with her quickly realized that her condition was suddenly serious and summoned Director of Nursing Sherry Sayles and Local Coordinator Sister Margaret Rose Sczesniak, who came immediately. They were with Sister Ephrem only moments, when she drew her last breath before going on to meet the God she had served so well throughout her life.

Sister Ephrem, we thank you for your service to God's little ones, and for your words of kindness to and about everyone. May you now pray for us, your family, your friends, your pupils and your Franciscan sisters, as you live in the presence of the Eternal Word, the greatest of teachers, Jesus, Our God. Amen. Alleluia.

