

Alleluia!

Sister Ann Yanek, OSF



Sister Ann Yanek was born to John and Anna Pastorchin Yanek on July 14, 1922 in Streator, Illinois. Baptized Anna Lucille at St. Stephen's in Streator, she was the middle child in a family of 13 children. She was preceded in death by two sisters named Mary, the elder of whom died as a child and by brothers, two named John, the elder of whom died at childbirth, George and Raymond. Ann is survived by her sisters, Veronica, Dorothy and Lillian and her brothers, Edward, Joseph and Donald. Our Sister Karen Berry is her cousin, as was our deceased Sister Lucia Chunta.

Ann attended St. Stephen's Grade School for the first six grades and graduated from Sherman Public School in Streator. She then attended Streator Township High School for two years. After entering the Postulancy, she graduated from St. Francis Academy and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Biology from the College of St. Francis.

Ann once wrote that it was while working at St. Mary's Hospital that she first felt the desire to be a nun and possibly a missionary to China, but that her mother was not in favor of her being a missionary. However, after her second year of high school, her parents gave her permission to enter the Sisters of St. Francis, which she did on September 5, 1939. On August 12, 1940, Ann entered the Novitiate and received the name Sister Mary Ralph. When given the opportunity after the Second Vatican Council, she returned to her baptismal name of Ann.

After first profession of vows on August 12, 1942, Ann began her 50 years as an educator. She taught at various schools in Alabama, Illinois and Ohio, mostly in the primary grades. This included seven years at St. Joseph, Joliet, eight years at St. Mary, Bloomington, Illinois and 11 years at St. Paul the Apostle, Joliet. Ann was known for her excellence in teaching, especially in the art of teaching reading. She was often asked to train new teachers and is listed in the *Who's Who in American Education*.

In 1992, Sister Ann went to Costa Grade School in Galesburg, Illinois as school secretary and teacher of Religion in Grades 4 and 5. It was there that she was diagnosed with lung cancer. Because of this, she developed a deep devotion to St. Peregrine and credits his intercession with keeping her cancer in remission through 1996.

In 1993, Ann moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home where she served as receptionist and sacristan. She also spent time making crafts, rosaries and painting. She donated many of her works to OLA's Christmas Bazaar, OLAfest, the Golden Arts Fair and her family. She loved having her work on display.

After a few years of remission, Ann's cancer returned. Since her Diamond Jubilee celebration last June, she was basically bedridden. These last few weeks, Ann has been surrounded by her family and Sisters, praying with her, talking to her, singing for her. Though she could not always respond, she often smiled. Then, on Monday, November 18th, late in the evening, after many months of suffering, Ann quietly went home to her God.

Sister Ann, you once wrote that your motto through life was a paraphrase from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy: "I have stayed the course. I have fought the fight. I have kept the faith." We thank you for sharing your faith and love with us, for staying the course these 62 years. As you begin your eternity with your ever-faithful God, remember us, your family, your friends, your Franciscan sisters.

Amen! Alleluia!

Sister Ann Yanek, OSF
 14 July 1922 - 18 November 2002

82\$

Born: July 14, 1922; Streator, Illinois
Parents: John and Anna (Pastorchin) Yanek
Entered From: St. Stephen Parish, Streator, Illinois
Postulancy: September 5, 1939
Novitiate: August 12, 1940
Profession: August 12, 1942
Entered New Life: Monday, November 18, 2002, at Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL at 10:15 p.m.

Ministry History

1942 - 1945 Teacher; Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4; Sacred Heart, Huron St., Chicago, IL
 1945 - 1947 Teacher; Grades 1 & 2; Assumption, Chicago, IL
 1947 - 1954 Teacher; Grade 1; St. Joseph, Joliet, IL
 1954 - 1955 Teacher; Grade 1; St. Stephen, Streator, IL
 1955 - 1957 Teacher; Grade 1; St. Peter, Mansfield, OH
 1957 - 1961 Teacher; Grade 1; Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH
 1961 - 1963 Teacher; Grades 1 & 2; Assumption, Chicago, IL
 1963 - 1966 Teacher; Grade 2; SS. Peter & Paul, Chicago, IL
 1966 - 1968 Teacher; Grade 1; St. Paul the Apostle, Joliet, IL
 1968 - 1973 Teacher; Grade 2 & Remedial Reading; SS Peter & Paul, Naperville, IL
 1973 - 1982 Teacher; Grade 1; St. Paul the Apostle, Joliet, IL
 1982 - 1984 Teacher; Kindergarten; St. Mary, Fairfield, AL
 1984 - 1992 Teacher; Pre-school/Kindergarten & Grade 4; St. Mary, Bloomington, IL
 1992 - 1993 School Secretary/Teacher; Grades 4 & 5; Costa Grade School, Galesburg, IL
 1993 - 2000 Receptionist, Community Service & Sacristan; Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
 2000 - 2002 Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Wake: Friday, November 22, 2002, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Wake Service: Friday, November 22, 2002, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Mass of Christian Burial: Friday, November 22, 2002, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Burial: Saturday, November 23, 2002; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.
 to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL

Interment S8 - L334 - G7

Survived by: Sisters Vern Poruba, Dorothy (Charles) Rakers, Lillian (Edward) Surrock;
 brothers Edward Yanek, Joseph (Juanita) Yanek, and Donald (Ardele) Yanek;
 sister-in-law, Margaret Yanek, many nieces and nephews and cousin, Sister
 Karen Berry, OSF.

Rest in Peace, Sister Ann