

Sister Martha Ann Yosick, O.S.F. (Poverella)



Born: March 17, 1935
 Parents: Frank J. and Lillian E. (Soldan) Yosick
 Entered from: Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH
 Postulancy: September 2, 1952
 Novitiate: August 13, 1953
 Profession: August 12, 1955
 Died: Sunday, October 17, 1999 at Mansfield General Hospital in Mansfield, OH at 12:10 p.m.

Ministry:

1955 - 1956 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 3
 1956 - 1959 St. Jude, Joliet, IL, Grades 2, 3
 1959 - 1960 St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Grade 2
 1960 - 1963 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 1
 1963 - 1965 St. Pius X, Lombard, IL, Grades 1, 2
 1965 - 1970 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 2, 5
 1970 - 1978 St. Michael, Sigel, IL, Grades 5, 6
 1978 - 1979 All Saints Inter-parochial, Wickliffe, OH, Grade 4
 1979 - 1982 St. Joseph, Galion, OH, Grades 5, 7, 8
 1982 - 1983 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Rectory office
 1983 - 1985 Annunciata, Chicago, IL, Librarian, Intermediate grade teacher
 1985 - 1990 St. Mary, Shelby, OH, Intermediate grade teacher
 1990 - 1991 Wal-Mart, Shelby, OH, Store Greeter
 1991 - 1992 Mid-West Industries, Shelby, OH
 1992 - 1994 Kinder Nest Child Development Center, Willard, OH, Teacher
 1994 - 1999 Meijer's, Ontario, OH, Store Greeter

Wake: Barkdull Funeral Home, Shelby, OH, Wednesday, October 20 from 4-9 p.m. with a prayer service at 8:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Thursday, October 21 at 10:00 a.m.

Burial: Most Pure Heart of Mary Cemetery

Survived by: brothers and sisters-in-law, sisters and brother-in-law: Paul F. (Rosanna) Yosick of Fairborn, OH, Robert L. (Ramona) Yosick of Dayton, OH, John W. (Aline) Yosick of Huntington Beach, CA, Sister Irene Yosick, O.S.F. of Shelby, OH, Kenneth A. (Sue) Yosick of Shelby, OH, Dennis A. (Emilia) Yosick of Northbrook, IL, Joan M. (Thomas) Courtney of Grove City, OH, and Thomas M. (Janice) Yosick of Hanover, PA and many nieces and nephews

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

Sister Martha Ann Yosick was born on March 17, 1935 to Frank and Lillian Soldan Yosick in Shelby, Ohio. Martha and her twin sister Patricia were baptized at Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish in Shelby. Together with her six brothers and three sisters, they were active in the parish and attended the parish grade school. After eighth grade graduation, Martha continued her education at St. Francis Academy in Joliet, while participating in the aspirancy program at St. Francis Preparatory in Joliet.

On September 2, 1952, Martha was accepted as a postulant with the Joliet Franciscan Sisters. On August 13, 1953, Martha was received as a novice, and was given the new name of Sister Mary Poverella. (Later, she resumed her baptismal name of Martha Ann.) Following her first profession of vows on August 12, 1955, Sister Martha Ann began her ministry as an elementary teacher at St. Joseph School in Joliet. Until 1990, she continued the ministry of education, serving in various schools in Illinois and Ohio. Children gave her great joy and she motivated them to learn from books, as well as from life.

Martha had a strong devotion and love for her family. She was a support to her sister Irene and to the rest of the family as she gave of herself to be with her mother during her illness. Martha remained close to her twin sister Pat, as she suffered through the various stages of cancer. When Martha discovered that she, too, had cancer, she had already learned valuable lessons of patience and dedication from her mother and from Pat. Martha's spirit of faith and her Franciscan love of nature, together with the love and support of her family and Franciscan Congregation, helped her to live life even in the midst of suffering. Her collection of elephants, with their trunks raised, reminded her of the strength she needed to persevere. She enjoyed playing Bingo, and worked as a volunteer with the Bingo program at Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish.

While she was hospitalized, Martha was grateful for the care she received from the nursing staff. She, in her unique and feisty spirit, took on the battle against cancer. Francis, the Poverello, the little poor one, chosen and loved by God, was an important image in Martha's spirituality. She took delight in the image of Francis who saw all as gift from God. She appreciated all those who helped her and who spent time with her. She was inspired by the beauty of nature and appreciated all of God's creatures (with the exception of spiders, snakes and cats). In the spirit of Francis, she tried to make her life a canticle of praise, a song of gratitude for God's goodness.

What Martha received from her family and friends, she gave away for others to enjoy. On October 17, 1999, she knew that the gift of life she had received had been given only for a time. So as she had done with so many other things, in a spirit of faith, of peace and of gratitude, she gave back to God the gift of her life. Her family surrounded her in prayer and support as she made this last generous gift.

Sister Martha Ann, we thank you for the gift of your life shared so generously with others. We ask that you pray for us, your family, friends and Franciscan community, that we too may be generous with the gifts we have been given. May you, as God's little one, his Poverella, sing a hymn to all of God's creation forever. Amen. Alleluia.

