

Sister Theresa Zver, O.S.F. (Eudora)



786

Born: February 20, 1914  
Parents: Martin and Etelka (Domaj) Zver  
Foster Parents: M. J. and Margaret Ryan  
Entered from: Sacred Heart, Chicago, IL  
Postulancy: September 8, 1931  
Novitiate: August 12, 1932  
Profession: August 12, 1934  
Died: Sunday, October 3, 1999 at Provena St. Joseph Medical Center, Joliet, IL at 3:30 a.m.

Ministry:

1934 - 1937 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 2  
1937 - 1939 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 1  
1939 - 1942 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 2  
1942 - 1952 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 1  
1952 - 1954 Sacred Heart, Hubbard Woods, IL, Grade 1  
1954 - 1955 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Grade 2  
1955 - 1958 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 1  
1958 - 1960 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 1  
1960 - 1961 Annunciation, Aurora, IL, Grades 1, 2  
1961 - 1963 Divine Savior, Chicago, IL, Grade 1  
1963 - 1967 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 1  
1967 - 1968 St. Michael, Brunswick, MI, Grades 1, 2  
1968 - 1969 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 1  
1969 - 1970 St. Pius X, Lombard, IL, Grade 1  
1970 - 1972 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 1  
1972 - 1973 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Retirement Office Assistant  
1973 - 1983 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Activity Director for Sister  
1983 - 1985 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Business Office Staff  
1985 - 1986 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Sacristan  
1986 - 1988 St. Matthew, Phoenix, AZ, Library Aide/Clerical Office  
1988 - 1991 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Seamstress/Driver  
1991 - 1998 St. Francis Reading Center, Tutor  
1998 - 1999 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Tuesday, October 5, 1999  
2-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
Tuesday, October 5, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial Wednesday, October 6, 1999 leaving Our Lady of Angels at  
9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL,  
Section 8, Lot, 336, Grave 1

Survived by: nieces and nephews

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

Sister Theresa Zver was born in Chicago, Illinois on February 20, 1914 to Martin and Etelka Domaj Zver. On March 15, 1914 she was baptized at St. Stephen Church in Chicago and given the name of Theresa. She came from a large family and had a twin brother, Thomas. When Theresa was seven her mother died and she was cared for by her foster parents, M. J. and Margaret Ryan, who were very good to her.

Although Theresa only had her mother for seven years, she was the main influence in respect to her religious vocation. Theresa recalls the many times her mother would talk to the family about religious life and would pray daily that one of her children would become a religious. While attending Sacred Heart High School in Englewood Sister Adelbert, the principal, told Theresa that she had a vocation to become a Sister. On September 8, 1931, Theresa entered the Joliet Franciscans. Theresa writes, "I thank God for having called me to follow in His footsteps and also for having given me the privilege of fulfilling my dear mother's wish. On August 12, 1932, she entered the novitiate receiving the name Sister M. Eudora, later changing her name to Sister Theresa.

Following her first profession of vows on August 12, 1934, Sister Theresa began her ministry of education. She taught the primary grades and religious education in schools and parishes in Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. She expressed that the best years of her teaching career were the seventeen years at St. Mary's, Columbus. There she had the unique experience of seeing some of her first students graduate from high school and college and then teaching their children in first grade. Sister Theresa said, "The greatest gift I gave to my classes was the gift of reading which would be theirs for life." In her later years Sister Theresa continued as a tutor in the Motherhouse Reading Program.

In 1972, Sister Theresa came to St. Francis Convent as the Director of the Activity Program for the Senior Sisters at the Motherhouse. Here she hoped to add not just new years to life, but new life to the years of those with whom she worked. She realized that each new dawn she would seek higher values and goals which challenged her creativity. The Sisters were her constant inspiration and daily she was grateful to God for the opportunity. She continued her spiritual and professional growth through many meetings, readings and workshops.

Sister Theresa enjoyed traveling, fishing, swimming, animals especially birds and dogs, music, sewing, and being with people. Her 'extra curricular' interests began in 1973 when she worked with the Humane Society, Pet Control, and Veterinarians, and over the years placed 94 dogs in homes where they received good care and lots of love. For many years Sister Theresa enjoyed Princess, her tiny black poodle.

About a year ago Sister Theresa retired to Our Lady of Angels. She continued to do some sewing for the Sisters and spent time in prayer and reflection. Late Thursday afternoon on September 30 Sister Theresa was admitted to Provena St. Joseph Medical Center for possible congestive heart failure. Sister David Ann visited with her on Friday, bringing her a bag of feastday gifts. Sister Theresa remarked that this was like Christmas. In the early morning of October 3, Sister Theresa rang for the nurse as she had a terrific headache. About three twenty Sister David Ann received a call that her condition had changed. When Sisters David Ann and Rosemary Fonck arrived at the hospital, Sister Theresa had already died. Sister Josephine from the hospital pastoral department had been there praying with Sister Theresa.

Sister Theresa, we thank you for all the life and love you shared with your students, your family and us your Franciscan Sisters. You have done what was yours to do. Pray for us, your congregation, that Christ may teach us what is ours to do. May you now experience the depth and beauty of God's unconditional love for you. Amen. Alleluia.

