

Alleluia!

Sister Michael Marie Jonik, OSF



Sister Michael Marie Jonik was born in Chicago, Illinois on June 24, 1923. Baptized Marion Anne, she was one of three children of Michael and Johanna Buerger Jonik. Her brother John preceded her in death, as well as five of her aunts, Joliet Franciscan Sisters Tharsilla, Bernarda, Beata, Gerarda and Seraphia. She is survived by her sister, Rosemary, nieces, nephews and cousins, among whom are our own Sisters Dominic Krivich and Clarence Golla.

Marion graduated from St. Bride's grade school in 1937. She began high school in Chicago at Loretto Academy. In 1938, she came to Joliet and entered St. Francis Preparatory. After entering the Postulancy on September 5, 1939, Marion graduated from St. Francis Academy. On August 12, 1940, Marion became a novice and received the name Sister Michael Marie.

After first profession of vows on August 12, 1942, Sister Michael Marie spent the next two years completing her Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in English from the College of St. Francis. Through the years she taught English, Journalism, Music, Religion, Grade 3 and Kindergarten at various schools, including three years at St. Francis Academy in Joliet and seven years at Our Lady of Mercy in Granville, Ohio. She also served as receptionist at St. Francis Convent and Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home.

Sister Michael Marie loved her years of teaching. She once wrote that her most rewarding ministry was "teaching high school" because she "felt a real bond with the students at that age."

From a young age on, Sister Michael Marie experienced problems with her health and in 1951, at Mayo Clinic, she was officially diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and arthritis. She moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in 1962. Though mostly confined to a wheelchair, she continued in ministry by visiting the residents, helping with crafts and wherever else she could. She loved to write

poetry and was published in the newspaper of the College of St. Francis entitled, *The Interlude*. In 1977, she was appointed by the Governing Board to serve on the writing committee for our *Constitutions*.

In the Novitiate, Sister Michael Marie was known as friendly, respectful, kind and patient. These are qualities that she exhibited all her life. These last few years, as Michael Marie continued to grow weaker, she lost her ability to communicate orally, but she never lost the smile on her face, or her graciousness. And she so enjoyed having people visit her.

After a recent short stay in the hospital, Sister Michael Marie returned to OLA where, on the night of February 19, surrounded by her classmates and sisters, she peacefully went home to her God.

In 1944, Michael Marie wrote a poem about a clock that stood at the foot of the stairs in the main hall of the Motherhouse and marked the history of our Congregation. At the end of the poem, the clock can no longer tell time and is moved from the main hall. The second to the last verse reads,

Now I am "shelved," no more of use
But I have my reward-
A place upon the choir stairs-
Sentinel to the Lord.

Sister Michael Marie, we thank you for the 62 years you spent with us as teacher, sister, friend. You have been an example to us of gracious, patient endurance. As you now begin your reward and stand as "sentinel to the Lord," remember us, your family, your friends, your Franciscan Sisters. Amen! Alleluia!

Sister Michael Marie Jonik, OSF
24 June 1923 - 19 February 2002

Born: June 24, 1923; Chicago, Illinois 819
Parents: Michael and Johanna (Buerger) Jonik
Entered From: St. Bride Church, Chicago, Illinois
Postulancy: September 5, 1939
Novitiate: August 12, 1940
Profession: August 12, 1942
Entered New Life: Tuesday, February 19, 2002, at Our Lady of Angels at 10:35 p.m.

Ministry History

1942 - 1943 Student; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1943 - 1944 Student; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1944 - 1947 Teacher; English, Journalism, Music & Religion; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1947 - 1949 Teacher; English, Journalism, Librarian; St. Mary, Columbus, OH
1949 - 1950 Teacher; Grade 3; St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL. Also Teacher; Kindergarten;
St. Mary, Fairfield, AL
1950 - 1951 Clerical Work; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1951 - 1958 Teacher/Prefect; Music; Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, OH
1958 - 1959 Assistant; St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet, IL
1959 - 1962 Front Office; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
1962 - 1964 Receptionist; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL
1964 - 2002 Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Wake: Friday, February 22, 2002, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Wake Service: Friday, February 22, 2002, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Mass of Christian Burial: Friday, February 22, 2002, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Burial: Saturday, February 23, 2002; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.
to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Interment S8 - L334 - G12

Survived by: A sister, Rosemary Nash and nieces and nephews.

Rest in Peace, Sister Michael Marie