

**SISTER M. DePADUA ANTL O.S.F. (Cecilia) 690**

**Born:** October 23, 1911 - Joliet, Illinois  
**Parents:** John and Mary (Tesarek) Antl  
**Postulancy:** September 6, 1937  
**Novitiate:** August 12, 1938  
**First Profession:** August 12, 1940  
**Final Profession:** August 12, 1943  
**Died:** Sunday, July 28, 1991 at 2:20 a.m.  
at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home



**Ministry:**

1940 - 1951 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Instructor in Art  
1951 - 1952 Catholic University, Washington, DC, Graduate Study  
1952 - 1957 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Art Department  
1957 - 1960 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Art Appreciation,  
Religion, Mechanical Drawing, Applied Art  
1960 - 1975 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, English, Art, Mechanical Drawing  
Art Appreciation  
1975 - 1977 Holy Trinity/College of DuPage, Westmont, IL, Art, Parish  
Ministry  
1977 - 1989 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Free Lance Artist  
1990 - 1991 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

**Wake:** Tuesday, July 30, 1991 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Prayer Service at 4:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

**Mass of Christian Burial:** Tuesday, July 30, 1991 at 7 p.m.

**Burial:** Wednesday, July 31, 1991 at 9:00 a.m.  
Interment Resurrection Cemetery

Survived by her sister, Sister M. Bonaventure Antl, OSF and her  
brother, Rev. Louis Antl, OFM

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

On July 28, 1991, at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, our Sister DePadua Antl was born to life eternal. Conscious until the last day of her life, she was comforted by the presence of her sister, our Sister Bonaventure, and her brother, Father Louis. Fears of death gave way to peaceful acceptance, she was ready to meet her God!

Cecilia was born October 23, 1911, in Joliet, Illinois to Mary and John Antl. She was the second child of five, two of whom died as infants. The Antl family is well known to our Congregation. Mary, the mother, spent her last days as a resident of Our Lady of Angels. The oldest child is our Sister Bonaventure. The youngest boy, (born when Sister DePadua was twelve years old) is Father Louis, a Franciscan priest who has served our Sisters through many years of his ministry.

Sister DePadua always knew our Sisters. They were her teachers at St. John's Grade School, St. Francis Academy, and the College of St. Francis (Class 1934). Sister DePadua worked at a Photography Studio, "tinting and touching up" photographs. She helped her parents financially, and took special care of her little brother. After her brother left home to become a Franciscan priest, she was ready to enter the Congregation. The year was 1937 and she was twenty-six years old. She celebrated her Golden Jubilee of religious profession in 1990.

Sister DePadua ministered as an artist and a teacher. Throughout her life she remained an eager student, interested in learning all dimensions of art. She would have been happy ministering as a Congregation artist, but in 1940 she was asked to teach.

She once said that, "because teaching was my assigned task, I put all I had in it." Teaching wasn't easy for her. She spent seventeen years at the College of St. Francis. One of her college students spoke of the impact Sister DePadua had on her life, "She gave me a sense of the beauty of the world and awakened in me a life-long love for art culture. She had a sense of humor, and was not afraid to laugh at herself. She was a very special lady."

She spent three years at St. Francis de Sales in Chicago, opening the high school art department. For fourteen years she ministered at St. Peter High School, Mansfield, Ohio. She grew to understand and love her adolescent students, especially those who had such a hard time learning.



In 1975 she began a ministry as a free-lance Artist. She was an artist who could collect nothings, and create something beautiful from them. She offered workshops in "How to Create Banners for Churches," she prepared OLAFEST Centerpieces, created paintings and other art forms for parish Churches, decorated, designed greeting cards, and painted. During these last months of her life she was busy painting, "Our Lady, the Senior Citizen."

Sister DePadua had an expressive personality. She had a talent for the dramatic arts. She possessed a sense of humor, and knew how to entertain. We will always remember her antics during 4th of July parades, her dramatic readings in OSF Talent Shows (especially Barbara Fritchie), her marvelous role as a Flower in the 1987 production of Alice in Blunderland. In 1990 she even auditioned for a role in the Chicago production of the musical comedy Nunsense. She loved to sing, and always remained active in Church and city choral groups. She came alive on the stage, and delighted her audiences. She knew how to make us laugh!

Sister DePadua was not only an artist and entertainer. She was a religious woman of faith. That faith deepened through years of suffering. She once wrote, "We must realize that the pain and anguish we endure are part of His redemptive plan for us. We are all reaching for the Omega Point, Jesus!" Even in times of difficulty, discouragement and doubt, she remained faithful to prayer. She took every opportunity to grow in her understanding of the spiritual life.

In 1982 she wrote this prayer poem which gives us an insight into her spiritual journey:

**LORD, LIVE IN ME AND  
BRING YOUR PEACE  
TO LIGHTEN DOUBTS, FEARS AND DARKNESS;  
YOUR LOVE  
TO HEAL HURTS, ANGER AND HATRED;  
YOUR JOY  
TO GIVE HOPE OF YOUR KINGDOM.**

On the last day of her life she repeated again and again...

For all the days of my life...for all the days of my life...

Sister DePadua, we thank you for your fifty-three years as our Sister. You fulfilled your promises for "all the days of your life." May you now experience the fulfillment of God's promise to you...for all eternity. Amen! Alleluia!