

SISTER M. ELLEN CLARE GILMORE, O.S.F. (Winifred) 670

Born: November 20, 1902
Parents: Thomas and Margaret (Hoye) Gilmore
Postulancy: November 2, 1924
Novitiate: August 12, 1925
First Profession: August 12, 1927
Final Profession: August 12, 1930
Died: Sunday, June 10, 1990 at 12:25 p.m. at
St. Joseph Medical Center



Ministry:

1926 - 1927 St. Bernard, Joliet IL, Grades 4 & 5
1927 - 1941 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grades 3, 4, 6 & 8
1941 - 1946 Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH, Grade 8
1946 - 1947 St. Raymond, Joliet, IL, Grade 8
1947 - 1953 Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH, Superior,
Principal and Grade 8
1953 - 1954 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 8
1954 - 1955 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Superior, Principal
and Grade 8
1955 - 1956 Immaculate Conception, Mount Vernon, IL, Superior,
Principal and Grade 8
1956 - 1962 St. Michael, Worthington, IL, Superior, Principal
and Grade 8
1962 - 1968 Sacred Heart, Hubbard Woods, IL, Superior & Principal
1968 - 1969 St. Pius X, Lombard, IL, Grade 5
1969 - 1973 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Local Coordinator
1973 - 1982 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Director of Tutoring
Program
1982 - 1990 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Coordinator of the
Stamp Program

Wake: Monday, June 11, 1990 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Monday, June 11, 1990 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Tuesday, June 12, 1990 Resurrection Cemetery at 10:30 a.m.

Survived by nieces and nephews

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

About noon, on Sunday, June 10, 1990, at St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet, Illinois, our Sister Ellen Clare Gilmore was born to life eternal. Since May 5, 1990, she had been hospitalized, recovering from complicated surgery. She spent many weeks in intensive care, but remained alert. She was grateful for visits from her family and our Sisters, and was always ready to respond to prayer. An hour before she died, she told her nurse, "I feel pretty good today." She was ready to meet her God!

Winifred was born in Springfield, Illinois, on November 20, 1902, to Margaret and Thomas Gilmore. She was the second youngest of ten children. When she was a child her parents died, and her brother, Jim, and her sister, our deceased Sister Salome, became father and mother for the growing family. In this family, she learned the meaning of love and care. The Gilmore family devotion to each other has always been an inspiration to all of us. Although she was the last survivor of her brothers and sisters, her nieces and nephews have remained devoted to her, keeping vigil at her bedside during this past month. She will be dearly missed by them.

Inspired by her older sisters, Sister Salome and Sister Jane Frances, she became a postulant in 1924. Just two years ago she wrote, "I am very thankful for my religious vocation, for the opportunity to follow Christ in the tradition of St. Francis." She celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1987.

Sister Ellen Clare ministered in the field of education for over fifty years. She served as teacher and principal in elementary schools in Illinois and Ohio. From 1973-82 she directed the St. Francis Reading Center, and tutored at the Motherhouse and at the Illinois Juvenile Detention Center. She wrote how she was particularly interested in the slow learner, and wanted to help children with problems. She wrote, "I enjoyed my teaching years so much. It gives me great joy to hear from my former students and to learn of their successes in life." One of her students spoke, "She knew how to make school fun; she always remained calm and even-tempered. She was interested not just in teaching a subject, but also in the lives of her students."

She became a mentor for many of our young Sisters beginning their teaching careers. So many of them speak fondly of her concern for them as they faced first days in a classroom. To this day, many of those Sisters visited her at Our Lady of Angels, still sharing stories of their lives, always finding in her a willing and interested listener.

Sister Ellen Clare was devoted to our semi-retired and retired Sisters. Not only did she coordinate the tutoring program for them, but from 1969-73 she was the coordinator of our Sisters who were in residence at Our Lady of Angels. Later she returned to Our Lady of Angels in 1982, as a retired Sister, but still active in her final ministry of coordinating the Stamp Program. This was her special ministry for our Brazil Mission. Day after day, she lovingly and painstakingly organized the stamp collection and encouraged other Sisters to participate in collecting and sorting stamps.



Many received personal notes of thank you from her: "Thanks for the bag of cancelled stamps. We are grateful. Without your help it would be impossible to keep the eager fingers of our workers busy. The past year, 1987, was the best for our project. We received \$2,200.00 for our stamps. We thank God for His bounty to us."

Our Sister Ellen Clare was a woman of great faith and prayer. She was delighted to join a prayer group at OLA, and learned to appreciate using her own words in spontaneous prayer. As late as a few weeks ago, she said, "I have a better understanding of prayer when I can use my own words."

We thank you Sister Ellen Clare for your sixty six years as our Sister. We will miss your warm and loving presence in our midst. We rejoice with you as you experience wonderful reunion with your dear family, and the joy of life in the fullest with your God. Amen, Alleluia!