

**SISTER M. CLARETTE GROSS O.S.F. 716**

**Born:** September 7, 1911 in Chicago, IL  
**Parents:** Charles and Catherine (Daleiden) Gross  
**Postulancy:** September 5, 1927  
**Novitiate:** August 12, 1928  
**First Profession:** August 12, 1930  
**Final Profession:** August 12, 1933  
**Died:** Thursday December 16, 1993 at 2:45 p.m. at  
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet



**Ministry:**

1930 - 1932 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 1  
1932 - 1942 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Grades 1, 2, Music  
Classes and Organist  
1942 - 1960 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Music Appreciation, Glee  
Club and Chorus, Private Lessons in Piano and Voice  
1960 - 1962 St. Francis de Sales High School, Chicago, IL, Organist,  
Glee Club, Music Appreciation, Chorus, Private Music  
Lessons  
1962 - 1964 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Music Appreciation, Chorus,  
Glee Club, Organist, Private Music Lessons  
1964 - 1968 Bishop Ready High School, Columbus, OH, Glee Club,  
Chorus, Music Appreciation, Private Music Lessons  
1968 - 1970 St. Peter High School, Mansfield, OH, Music Appreciation,  
Chorus, Glee Club, Private Piano and Voice Lessons  
1970 - 1976 Divine Savior, Chicago, IL, Organist, Music Teacher  
1976 - 1983 St. Ambrose, Deerfield Beach, FL, Coordinator of Parish  
Social and Spiritual Program, Ministry to the sick  
1983 - 1984 Carmelite Carefree Village, Darien, IL, Director of  
Enrichment Program  
1984 - 1991 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Public Relations, Director  
of Volunteer Program  
1991 - 1993 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

**Wake:** Sunday, December 19, 1993 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Our  
Lady of Angels, Joliet, and Prayer Service at 4:30 p.m.

**Mass of Christian Burial:** Sunday, December 19, 1993 at 7:00 p.m.

**Burial:** Monday, December 20, 1993 at Resurrection Cemetery  
leaving Our Lady of Angels at 10:00 a.m.

Survived by her sisters Cecilia Violet and Loretta Kauth, and numerous  
nieces and nephews.

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

Sister Clarette was born in Chicago, Illinois on September 7, 1911 to Catherine Daleiden Gross and Charles Gross. Baptized at St. Gregory Parish, she was given the name of Marie Alice. Her immediate family included two brothers and seven sisters. Marie came to the postulancy in 1927, entered the novitiate in 1928, and professed her first vows on August 12, 1933.

Sister Clarette was an active and energetic minister for over fifty years. Most of these years were spent in music ministry, especially in the field of choral work, classroom teaching and private lessons. Sister Clarette was a recognized leader in her field, often serving on Diocesan Committees and Boards. As early as 1943, she recognized the significance of the African culture in the field of music in her thesis entitled "Negro Music and Musicians."

Sister Clarette was always ready to help those in need. For ten years, she directed the Stateville choir, bringing the gift of music to the residents in this Illinois State Penitentiary. Sister Clarette also often visited Dunning State Hospital for the mentally frail in Chicago, to bring her gift of music, as well as her loving care, and compassion.

It was these gifts of caring and compassion that endeared Sister Clarette to all her friends at St. Ambrose Parish in Deerfield Beach, Florida when she began her pastoral work in that parish, especially to the Young At Heart Group. Sister Clarette's service in Florida was publicly recognized when she was nominated for the Broward Senior Hall of Fame and her name was engraved on a plaque at the Broward County Courthouse.

After completing her work in Florida and though a senior citizen herself, Sister Clarette went on to serve the senior citizens at Carefree Village in Darien, Illinois and later served as Director of Volunteers when she first came to live at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet.

Many people enjoyed Sister Clarette's company, whether it was to sit and visit, to play a demanding game of cards, or to share meal and conversation together. Sister Clarette never retired from her ministry of prayer and continued to pray even in these final months of her suffering from cancer. She was cheerful and grateful to all who came to visit. Those who knew her love for music kept the music playing in her room as she waited for God to call her home. And so it was that when the strains of Christmas music were beginning to fill the halls at OLA, in the company of her family and her sisters, Sister Clarette left this earth to join her voice with the heavenly choirs.

Sister Clarette, we ask you to stand tall before our God, and to sing forever God's praises. We ask you to continue to pray for us your Franciscan Sisters, your family and your friends, that we may come to know the healing power of music and the compassionate love of our God. May the gift of your life continue to inspire us to serve those in need and to reach out to others in love. May God, with infinite love, now reach out to you in love and welcome you singing forever the goodness of the Lord. Amen. Alleluia.

