

**SISTER CAROLINE HOLINGA, O.S.F. (Gabriella)**

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**Born:** May 11, 1908  
**Parents:** George and Mary Beros Holinga  
**Postulancy:** December 31, 1923  
**Novitiate:** August 12, 1924  
**First Profession:** August 13, 1926  
**Final Profession:** August 13, 1929  
**Died:** Tuesday, December 1, 1992 at 11:30 a.m.  
at Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois



**Ministry:**

1925-26 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 2  
1926-30 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grades 4, 5, Organist  
1930-31 St. Wenceslas, Chicago, IL, Grades 5,6  
1931-32 Assumption, Chicago, IL, Grades 4,5,6, Organist  
1932-36 Immaculate Conception, Kankakee, IL, Grades 1-6, Organist  
1936-39 Assumption, Chicago, IL, Grades 4,5,6, Organist  
1939-42 St. Louis, Custar, OH, Grades 1-4, Organist  
1942-48 Immaculate Conception, Kankakee, IL, Grades 5-8, Principal, Organist  
1948-49 St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH, Grade 8  
1949-50 Assumption, Chicago, IL, Grades 5,6  
1950-52 Sts. Peter & Paul, Leonore, IL, Grades 5-8  
1952-53 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 8, Principal, Organist  
2-6, 1953 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI, Grades 6-8, Organist  
1953-60 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 8, Principal, Organist  
1960-61 Assumption, Chicago, IL, Grades 5,6, Organist  
2-6, 1961 St. John, Loveland, CO, Organist, Music Teacher  
1961-63 St. Mary, Rock Island, IL, Grades 5,6, Organist  
1963-64 Sts. Peter & Paul, Chicago, IL, Grade 7  
1964-65 St. Procop, Cleveland, OH, Grade 7  
1965-66 St. John, Joliet, IL, Grade 8  
1966-69 St. Procop, Cleveland, OH, Grade 8, Principal  
1969-73 St. John, Joliet, IL, Grade 8  
1973-77 St. Paul, Joliet, IL, Grade 4, Learning Center  
1977-82 St. Mary, Rock Island, IL, Religious Education  
1982-92 Motherhouse, Retired, Craft work  
1992 Our Lady of Angels Infirmary

**Wake:** Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Thursday, Dec. 3, 1992  
2-7p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

**Mass of Christian Burial:** Thursday, 7p.m.

**Burial:** Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, Friday, Dec. 4, 1992  
from Our Lady of Angels at 9:30 a.m.

**Survived by:** Sisters: Esther Dodge, Lucille Helms of  
Streator, IL, and Martha Thomas of Ottawa, IL

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

Sister Caroline Holinga was born in Streator, Illinois on May 11, 1908 to George Holinga and Mary Beros Holinga, the second daughter of eight children. The very next day she was baptized Caroline in St. Stephen's Church in Streator. Her family, especially her mother, greatly influenced her life. Sister Caroline speaks of her mother as "always being there, teaching us the basics of cooking and sewing. Neighborhood children were always welcome. She helped us and them with homework."

On December 31, 1923, when Caroline was only 15, she was received as a postulant by the Sisters of St. Francis in Joliet. Upon entering the Novitiate on August 12, 1924, Caroline received the name of Sister Gabriella. During those formative years she is described as respectful, upright and industrious.

Throughout her many years of faithful service to her God, Sister Caroline was teacher, principal, organist, and learning resource director. She loved school and had a special heart for those children who struggled to learn. She searched for new approaches, different ideas and creative projects to make her classroom alive with learning and fun. She enjoyed watching the boys play baseball, and influenced many of them to be better young gentlemen.

Sister Caroline herself wrote that she never felt that her life was unfulfilled, but rather that her life was filled with many highlights. She appreciated the deep spirit of prayer and recollection in religious life. She welcomed living with a variety of Sisters as that added spice, edification, and life to community living.

When Sister Caroline retired to the Motherhouse ten years ago, she crocheted beautiful afghans, bird cages, and lambs, and created various other craft items. Time and energy were insufficient for all the ideas and projects she envisioned.

She continued her crafts after moving to Our Lady of Angels on February 14, 1992. Gradually her body became more frail and totally dependent on others. For the last three and one-half months she also experienced loss of speech. Through all of this, she continued to offer herself and all of her sufferings and frustrations to her loving God. As the nurses went to turn her, late Monday morning, Sister Caroline died very peacefully.

Sister Caroline, as you join with the voices of the angels, your Franciscan Sisters, your parents, your brother George and your sisters Mary, Antoinette, and Justina, we ask you to pray for your sisters Martha, Lucille and Esther, and for all of us. We thank you for all the life you have shared with us over these 84 years. Your life and your memory will be a source of strength and inspiration to all who are suffering and to those who are carrying on your treasured ministry of teaching. Amen. Alleluia.

