

SISTER M. MADELEINE HOPP

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Born: June 26, 1913
Parents: George and Elizabeth Till Hopp
Postulancy: September 8, 1935
Novitiate: August 12, 1936
First Profession: August 12, 1938
Final Profession: August 12, 1941
Died: October 15, 1993



Ministry:

1938-40 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Kitchen/Bakery
1940-46 Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH, Domestic/Kitchen
1946-58 St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet, IL, Domestic/Kitchen
1958-60 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Snack Bar Supervisor
1960-61 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Bakery
St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet, IL, Kitchen
1961-64 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Domestic/Kitchen
1964-73 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Domestic work
1973-75 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Food service
1975-78 Family Ministry, Mansfield, OH, Care of mother
St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Food service
1978-87 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Food service
1987-93 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Monday, October 18,
2-7p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Monday, October 18, 7p.m.

Burial: Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL,
Tuesday, October 19, 1993
from Our Lady of Angels at 9:30 a.m.

Survived by sisters: Mrs. Ann (Ray) Kidinger of Cape Coral, FL
Mrs. Theresa Clark of Rocky River, OH,
brother, Martin Hopp of Mansfield, OH, Aunt Josephine Hopp,
nieces and nephews.

For those who have been faithful, O Lord,

life is not ended, but merely changed.

Sister Madeleine was born in Mansfield, Ohio on June 26, 1913 to Elizabeth Till Hopp and George Hopp. In Baptism she was given the name of Elizabeth Catherine, after her mother and an older sister who had died as an infant. With her older sister Anna, her younger sister Theresa, and her younger brother Martin, they learned the values of hard work on the family farm.

After receiving an education at St. Peter's School in Mansfield Ohio, Elizabeth continued to help the family, remaining at home until she was 22 years old. Elizabeth came to Joliet in the fall of 1938 to be a postulant, and upon entering the novitiate was given the name of Sister Madeleine. Her abilities at cooking and baking were quickly recognized. Sister Rosalinda taught her how to cook for large numbers, and Sister Justa taught her how to bake. Her classmate, Sister DePaul trained her in preparing special diets. Sister Madeleine was a joy and an inspiration to many who worked with her. The young aspirants at St. Francis Preparatory remember the many birthday cakes she baked, and the wonderful aroma of fresh bread baking after she had assisted the aspirants in forming Trinity Rolls. They learned the organization of "cleaning up their shadows" before leaving the workspace, and were touched by Sister Madeleine's gift of fun and understanding and inspired by her spirit of prayer.

Sister Hortense (Christine Fehrenbach) writes of Sister Madeleine, then a young Sister working at Marybrook Academy in Maumee, Ohio: "Sister Madeleine is candid and sincere about everything. Her mature judgements in trying circumstances and sane attitude toward daily problems make her an invaluable member of the staff. Her childlike simplicity, her enthusiasm for work, and her selfless devotion to the cause are a real source of edification and inspiration to the Marybrook girls. She is their favorite."

Sister Madeleine describes the highlight of her life "the privilege of being a Sister of St. Francis and of serving in this great Franciscan Family." She loved to sing with the choir and could often be found praying in the chapel.

Those who know Sister Madeleine quickly recall her love of nature and of the outdoors, of walking in the woods, of picking apples so small and misshapen that others passed them by, transforming them into wonderful applesauce, generously shared with others. She loved to swim and to play ball, to sweep leaves and to shovel snow, to play cards and to drive others to visit relatives. Until recently Madeleine was a faithful reader for Sister Joan, personally lending the gift of her eyesight to a Sister whose eyes were failing.

Sister Madeleine was amazingly healthy most of her life. Only the past week was she diagnosed as having acute leukemia. The Sisters kept vigil with her during her last days. It seems significant that she, who had risen before the sun most of her days, should go to meet her God at 5:00 a.m. just hours before the sun was to rise on October 15, 1993.

Sister Madeleine, we thank you for the spice of your life among us. We ask that you pray to God for each of us, your family members and your Sisters in this Franciscan Family, that we may be faithful to God and to one another, bringing the gift of joyful service to all we meet. Amen. Alleluia.

