

SISTER STACE JANISIN, O.S.F. (Fern Margaret) 680

Born: June 8, 1917 in Rice Lake, Wisconsin
Parents: John and Kathryn (Mullen) Janisin
Affiliate: June 29, 1980
Novitiate: August 6, 1980
First Profession: October 1, 1981
Final Profession: October 1, 1984
Died: Tuesday afternoon, February 12, 1991
at her residence in Aurora, Illinois



Ministry as a Joliet Franciscan:

1980 - St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL, teaching first semester
1981 - 1982 St. Jude, Joliet, IL, Math Teacher Grades 3, 4 & 5
1982 - 1991 St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL, Pastoral Ministry

Wake: Thursday, February 14, 1991 from 4:00 - 7:30 p.m.
at St. Rita of Cascia Church, Aurora, Illinois
Friday, February 15, 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: Friday, February 15, 1991 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Saturday, February 16, 1991 at 10:00 a.m.
Interment at Resurrection Cemetery

Survived by sisters: Evelyn Elbert and Mary Kay Donnelly

Surrender

by Sister Stace Janisin, OSF

So let me live, lord,
in a poverty of
spirit which bespeaks a yearning
toward greater intimacy with Thee..
entering that stark citadel only to
recognize more fully the
sureness of Thy bounty.

O God, my strong one,
forever be Thou blessed.

Search my will and know
that it ever searches thine...

From whence direction flows
revelling in the truth which sets me free
and yet holds fast in the
naked reality of commitment
called forth in love and in the
inescapable force of a re-examined life which
surrenders!

O God, my strong one,
Forever be Thou blessed.

Most desired one,
attuned to my brokenness and
ready to enfold me when I but
yield to Thy persuasion.

If then Thou takest all...
my will, my love, my poverty, then
much greater is my trust
as I make
covenant with Thee...
unencumbered by that which binds me in
leaping toward eternity!
alas! my soul, be awed in thy
thirsting for waters which quench
everlastingly!

Criteria
Volume 3, #3
Spring, 1981

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

"The Spirit you received is not the Spirit of fear;
It is the Spirit of sons and daughters, and it makes
us cry out ABBA!" (Rom 8: 15 - 16)

These were the sacred words Sister Stace Janisin chose for the ceremony of her first profession of vows in 1981. On Tuesday afternoon, February 12, 1991, at her home in Aurora, Illinois, our Sister Stace experienced the meaning of "Abba" for all eternity.

Sister Stace left us quietly, and most unexpectedly. She had experienced "flu like" symptoms for several days. On Tuesday she went to her room about 4:30 p.m. to rest before supper. When Rita Ward, who shared her home with Sister Stace, called her for supper about 5:00 p.m., she found her dead. Apparently her heart, which had brought her close to death once before, simply stopped. Just the day before, quite unexpectedly, the pastor had arrived and asked her if she wished to be anointed. Our Sister Stace was ready to meet her "Loving Abba." Her life long journey of surrender was realized.

Fern Margaret was born on June 8, 1917 in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, to Kathryn and John Janisin. There were five children in the family, two boys and three girls. Sister Stace is survived by her devoted sisters Evelyn and Mary Kay.

Fern Margaret had a very Irish mother who was delighted, when at age fourteen, her little girl decided to enter the aspirancy of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. In 1935 she made her first profession of vows as Sister Stace. She remained in this Congregation for thirty-five years, active in the ministry of education, serving as a superior and director of Tertianship Programs. In difficult days of 1969, she struggled with the meaning of her vocation and the changes in religious life. She asked for and received an indult of secularization.

Her roots in Franciscanism and her desire for a spiritual life remained strong within her as she spent the next nine years as a lay woman. She taught school, and served as a secretary and housekeeper for Monsignor Bob Chisholm in Marquette, Michigan. In 1977 she was uprooted again after the sudden death of Monsignor Bob.

Her life journey took her to Marion, Ohio where she taught and lived with her dear friend, our Sister Elizabeth Ann Hurley, who was principal of the school. There Sister Stace continued her journey of surrender, still desiring to share that faith journey with a community, still realizing she was called to a Franciscan life. She met our Sisters Margaret Mary Miner and Mary Franz, who suggested that she might be welcomed in our Congregation.



In 1980, calling herself a "young 61", she entered the novitiate of the Joliet Franciscans. A mature woman of wisdom and suffering, she understood the meaning of the vows she again would promise. Her poem called "Surrender", included here, tells of her commitment.

We her Sisters, speak of her with respect and love. She knew how to be a good friend and became friend to both the young and the aged. She was a gentle, caring woman, down to earth, fearless, respectful of difference in others. We called her an elegant "classy lady with an aire of properness." She was one who loved good times and abhorred gloom. Her great wit and gentle humor added much laughter to our lives.

Her life of surrender was grounded in a deep spirituality. She always had time for prayer, spiritual reading and reflection. She was ever eager to learn more, and took opportunities to grow in her faith life.

Her actions flowed naturally from her life of contemplation. She was an educator, described as intelligent, progressive and creative. From 1935 until 1969 she served as a teacher, a principal in elementary schools, and as a school supervisor.

As a Joliet Franciscan she served the past eight years as a pastoral minister at St. Rita of Cascia Parish in Aurora, Illinois. She was dearly loved by the people and her presence in the parish will be missed. She was an ever present minister, leading the Ministers of Care, visiting the elderly and infirm, bringing her sunny spirit and loving heart to all whose lives she touched.

She shared only ten years as our Sister, but she is engraven in our hearts. In a sealed envelope, to be opened only at her death, she left us a message. It is written on a tiny piece of valentine paper, decorated with little hearts. These are her words to us, her Sisters:

Dear Sisters,

My life had a new beginning with you in 1980. Your hearts were big enough to include me in your circle of care. Now that I have entered into the fullness of Life, my circle of care embraces all of you in your journey toward the new Jerusalem.

Stace

Into your hands, "Loving Abba", we now surrender our dear Sister Stace. Amen!
Alleluia!