

SISTER M. ILLUMINATA KAPPES, O.S.F. (Cleopha) 704

Born: February 24, 1905 in Crittenden, IL
Parents: Frank and Elizabeth (Labert) Kappes
Postulancy: September 8, 1920
Novitiate: August 12, 1921
First Profession: August 12, 1923
Final Profession: August 12, 1926
Died: Monday, August 10, 1992 at 1:45 a.m. at
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet



Ministry:

1923 - 1924 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 4
1924 - 1932 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Grades 4, 5, 6, 7
1932 - 1933 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 7
1933 - 1937 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 8
1937 - 1938 St. Joseph, Pesotum, IL, Domestic work
1938 - 1939 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Convalescing
1939 - 1940 St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet, IL, Convalescing
St. Joseph, Pesotum, IL
1940 - 1942 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Convalescing
1942 - 1945 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Infirmary Patient
1945 - 1951 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Grades 3, 4
1951 - 1953 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Convalescing
1953 - 1956 St. Joseph, Pesotum, IL, Grades 3,4,5
1956 - 1957 SS. Peter and Paul, Leonore, IL, Grades 4 & 5
St. Mary, Plainfield, IL, Domestic work
1957 - 1959 St. Mary, Plainfield, IL, Grades 3, 4
1959 - 1960 Annuciation, Aurora, IL, Domestic work
November, 1960 Holy Family, Cleveland, OH, Grade 4
1961- 1963 St. Joseph, Freeport, IL, Grades 4,6
1963 - 1965 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL, Grade 6
1965 - 1969 Divine Savior, Norridge, IL, Grade 6
1969 - 1980 St. Mary, Plainfield, IL, Grades 7, 8
1980 - 1992 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Thursday, August 13, 1992 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Service at 4:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, August 13, 1992 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Friday, August 14, at 9:30 a.m. from Our Lady of Angels
to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL

Survived by her sisters: Cele Christian, Sister M. Audrey,
and brother Raymond, nieces and nephews,
cousins including Sister M. Evangeline Kleiss

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

Sister Illuminata Kappes was born in Crittenden Township of Central Illinois, on February 24, 1905, daughter of Frank and Elizabeth Kappes, the second of their seven children and was baptized Cleopha Rose at Immaculate Conception Church. Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph Church in Pesotum, Illinois, she added the name of Zita.

Hardly a year later, on September 8, 1920, when Cleopha was only 15, she was received as a Postulant by the Sisters of St. Francis in Joliet. The rich farmland of central Illinois was also a fertile field for religious vocations, for many young women from that area came to the Convent including Cleopha's sister, Dorothy, now known as Sister Audrey. Years later, Sister Illuminata named the pastor of her home parish, Rev. Harry Brost, as the one most influential in her choice of vocation.

Upon reception into the Novitiate, Cleopha was given the name of Sister Illuminata, (a name referring to the Blessed Mother as the brilliant reflection of God). Following her First Profession, Sister Illuminata began her ministry of teaching, where her talents were obvious. Sister Illuminata writes, "I am happy in serving the Lord and His children." Although the heart and spirit of "Lumie", as she was affectionately called, was always in the classroom, there were long hard years in her life when her body was not able to support the demands of teaching. These years were spent in treatment and convalescing, in prayer and with a sustained hope to return to the classroom to teach once again.

Regaining her strength, Sister did return to the classroom. It was on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee, that another influential pastor in her life wrote these words: "From her first appointment, Sister Illuminata has been recognized as an excellent teacher. We are happy that she has spent five of her fifty fruitful years in our school. Sister Illuminata dedicated her entire being to the service of God. We wish Sister our gratitude for her friendship and wonderful work in our school, and a remembrance in our prayers until that glorious day when life will truly begin the everlasting Kingdom of God. God bless you Sister Illuminata!" This promise of prayer was kept, for here to celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial is Monsignor Armand Rotondi, who wrote these words as Pastor of St. Mary Immaculate Parish in Plainfield, Illinois.

Sister Audrey has shared much of the teaching ministry of Sister Illuminata, but was also compassionately present during much of her sister's illness. Having spent much of the day with Lumie on Sunday, August 9, Sister Audrey went to get some rest, but was summoned during the night to be with her sister again, and was at her side as Sister Illuminata entered into eternal light in the very early morning hours of August 10.

Sister Illuminata, as you join your parents and your brothers, Francis and Joseph, and your sister, Mary, we ask you to continue to pray for your brother Raymond, your sisters, Cele and Sister Audrey, and all of your Community members. We thank you for the inspiration that you are to those among us who are suffering, and to those who carry on your cherished ministry of teaching.

May you, as the Scriptures tell us, "shine like a star forever", Sister Illuminata. Amen. Alleluia.

