

SISTER CELESTE KOCAB, O.S.F.

725

Born: January 24, 1908
Parents: Joseph and Anna (Friedel) Kocab
Postulancy: November 28, 1927
Novitiate: August 12, 1928
First Profession: August 12, 1930
Final Profession: August 12, 1933
Died Wednesday August 10, 1994 at 11:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph Medical Center Emergency Room
Ministry:



1930 - 1932 St. Procopius High School, Chicago, IL, Commercial I, Religion, Business Arithmetic and English, Bookkeeping, Typing, Shorthand
1932 - 1933 St. Peter High School, Mansfield, OH, Algebra I, Typing, Shorthand
1933 - 1935 Sacred Heart High School, Englewood, IL, Commercial II, Typing, Shorthand, Bookkeeping, English
1935 - 1936 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, high school girls Prefect and Teacher, English, Latin, Geometry, Typing, Shorthand
1936 - 1937 St. Francis de Sales High School, Chicago, IL, Religion, Stenography, English, Latin, Secretarial training
1937 - 1947 St. Procop High School, Cleveland, OH, Religion, Algebra, Latin, Typing, Shorthand, Bookkeeping, Office Practice
1947 - 1950 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Religion, Commercial, Assisted in Office of the Dean and Bursar
1950 - 1965 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Bursar (1955-62 also on the Scholarship and Development Committee)
1965 - 1966 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Assistant Principal, Typing, General Business classes
1966 - 1968 St. Mary High School, Columbus, OH, Typing, Stenography, Bookkeeping
1968 - 1981 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Business Manager
1981 - 1988 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Secretary to the Congregation President
1988 - 1994 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Monday August 15, 1994
2-7:00 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL Monday August 15, 1994 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Tuesday August 16, 1994 leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:30 a.m.
Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8-L351-G9

Survived by: her sisters Eleanore Mares of Parma, OH and Ruth Novotny of Cleveland, OH and nieces and nephews.

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

Sister Celeste was born in Cleveland, Ohio to Joseph and Anna Friedl Kocab on January 24, 1908. She was taken to St. Procop's Church for Baptism, and given the name Anna Agnes. As the oldest of eight children, Anna and her family were active members of St. Procop's Church. She saw her parents deny themselves in order to give for their children. She also saw them give to others, especially during the depression years.

On November 28, 1927, Anna left her family to join an even larger family of the Franciscan Sisters in Joliet. At her reception into the Novitiate, Anna was given the name Sister M. Celeste. Completing her high school education at St. Francis Academy in Joliet, she continued her studies at the College of St. Francis in Joliet and at DePaul University in Chicago where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree. She also received a Master of Arts Degree from Sisters College of Cleveland.

Sister Celeste taught in high schools in Illinois and Ohio, including ten years at her home parish of St. Procop in Cleveland. As a high school teacher, she co-authored the Junior Year Religion text of Our Quest for Happiness.

In 1947, Sister Celeste became the bursar at the College of St. Francis, a position which she held for 17 years. From 1968-1980 she served as business manager at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in Joliet. Sister Celeste also served as personal secretary to two Congregation Presidents.

Even after she retired from active ministry Sister Celeste continued to be involved in many prayer groups and scripture study groups at Our Lady of Angels. She spent time visiting the sick and praying with them. Sister Celeste had a love of nature and a love of learning. In what spare time she had, she loved to admire the beauty of God's creation, and to grow in wisdom through reading and listening to taped conferences and talks. She would often be found in the chapel spending time in prayer. She also took delight in trying to teach a parakeet to master such basic phrases as: "God bless you." "Thank you." "You're beautiful."

Sister Celeste deeply admired Sister Eulogia. She thanked the Lord for her virtuous life, her brilliant mind and her gift of teaching. She loved her humor, her wit, her austerity and her kindness. It is often said that what we admire in another are also the virtues and qualities others see in us. Those who knew Sister Celeste can attest to the fact that what she admired in Sister Eulogia was also found within herself.

"Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints!" was one of her favorite prayers. On August 10, as the Congregation was preparing to celebrate the Feast of St. Clare, Sister Celeste suffered heart complications and went swiftly and surely to her God in the company of the angels and the saints forever.

We thank you Sister Celeste for your gifts of faithfulness, of prayer, and for your enthusiasm for all of God's creation. Pray for us your family, friends and your Franciscan Sisters as you pray before the Lord and live a new life in God's presence forever. Amen. Alleluia.

