

SISTER MARY MAJELLA KONIECZNY O.S.F. (Mary) 653

Born: August 15, 1914
Parents: Peter and Catherine (Szady) Konieczny
Postulancy: September 14, 1930
Novitiate: August 12, 1931
First Profession: August 12, 1933
Final Profession: August 12, 1936
Died: Tuesday, April 18, 1989 at 4:00 a.m. at
St. Luke Hospital, Milwaukee, WI



Ministry:

1933 - 1934 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Grade 2
1934 - 1944 Holy Cross, Joliet, IL, Grades 1, 2 and 3
1944 - 1945 Sacred Heart, Huron St., Chicago, IL, Kindergarden and
Grade 1
1945 - 1954 Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago, IL, Grade 2
1954 - 1958 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL, Grade 1
1958 - 1960 St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL, Grade 1
1960 - 1971 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Prefect
1971 - 1988 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Housekeeper
1988 - 1989 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Friday, April 21, 1989 from 2 - 7 p.m. with a prayer service
at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Friday, April 21, 1989 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Saturday, April 22, 1989, Resurrection Cemetery.

Survived by: Brothers: Stanley, Aloysius and John
Sisters: Helen Candella, Rose Chartrand, Victoria Macey and
Valeria Witkowski

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

At 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 1989, at St. Luke Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, our Sister Mary Majella Konieczny was born to life eternal.

The words "now there is no more weariness, now there is no more pain, God gives His children wings and sets them free" seem appropriate when we speak of her death. After suffering a heart attack on December 15, 1988 she spent four long months in the hospital. At her death we can only rejoice with her that she has truly been set free to be with her God.

Mary was born on August 15, 1914 in Chicago, Illinois to Catherine and Peter Konieczny. Her parents were Polish immigrants. Mary was the eighth child of fifteen. Her brothers and sisters cared deeply for her, and suffered with her during her final illness.

Mary once wrote that it was in the first grade that she determined to be a Sister. She entered the postulancy when she was sixteen years old, against her father's wishes, but with her mother's blessing. Her vocation remained a sacred gift to her all her life. She lived to celebrate her Golden Jubilee in 1983.

We all remember how the name Mary was so significant for her. Although she would respond to the affectionate nick-name "Midgey", we could never call her Majella without Mary. She once wrote that she had an older sister Mary, who died as an infant on August 15th. Her mother prayed for another Mary, and five years later, on August 15th, our Mary Majella was born. Her mother called her the miracle baby, and when she almost died, she dedicated her to our Blessed Mother. And that dedication remained in the heart of our Sister all her life.

One of her classmates wrote, "**She did the ordinary things extraordinarily well, with all her energy, heart and soul. She did not spare herself.**" These words characterize her zeal in ministry. She was primary teacher for twenty-seven years, and she loved the little children. She was prefect of little girls at Guardian Angel Home for eleven years, and we can only imagine how many children only knew a mother's love through her care and devotion to them. She was housekeeper at Our Lady of Angels for seventeen years. And each of those years she showed her dedication as she became super salesperson of chances for the Christmas bazaar. She wrote to everyone, including a few Bishops, to sell chances for OLA.

She had strong convictions and lived them with intense dedication. She was loyal to the Church and loved her Polish heritage. She rejoiced at the election of a Polish Pope, and proudly wore a large pin featuring the picture of Pope John Paul II. This became a religious symbol for her. Another classmate mused, "**She was so loyal to the Pope and to her Poland...who knows...by her life, prayer and suffering in death she may have been influential in assisting Lech Walesa in reestablishing Solidarity in her beloved Poland.**"

She was a music woman. As a child she watched her father and brothers play the harmonica, and at age five decided to teach herself "the hard way". And so the harmonica became her companion for her alone times, and for times of entertaining others.

We will miss you Sister Mary Majella. We thank you for your many years with us in community. Thank you for teaching us how to do the ordinary in an extraordinary way. May you experience the fullness of life with your Risen Lord forever and ever. Amen! Alleluia

