

SISTER M. LAMBERT KOVACIC O.S.F. (Agnes) 696

Born: January 16, 1906 - Joliet, IL
Parents: Anthony and Mary (Karl) Kovacic
Postulancy: September 5, 1921
Novitiate: August 12, 1922
First Profession: August 12, 1924
Final Profession: August 12, 1927
Died: Thursday, January 16, 1992 at 11:50 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, Illinois



Ministry

1923 - 1924 Substitute Teacher at St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL, Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL; St. Clement, Chicago, IL; St. Joseph, Joliet, IL
1924 - 1934 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grade 1
1934 - 1935 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grades 4 & 5
1935 - 1940 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grade 1
1940 - 1944 St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Grade 1
1944 - 1947 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 1
1947 - 1958 St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Grade 1
1958 - 1968 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Prefect Small Boys
1968 - 1973 St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL, General Assistant
1973 - 1979 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Retired
March 3, 1979 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired
1979 - 1992 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Monday, January 20, 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: Monday, January 20, 1992 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Tuesday, January 21, 1992 at 9:00 a.m.
Interment at Resurrection Cemetery

Survived by sisters: Antonia Wdowicki, Catherine (Kate) Wolf and Sister Agnes Marie Kovacic

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

On January 16, 1992, at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, our Sister Lambert Kovacic enjoyed celebrating her eighty-sixth birthday with her sisters Kate and Sister Agnes Marie. Then, quite unexpectedly, shortly before midnight, she experienced birth to a new life for all eternity.

Mary Agnes was born on January 16, 1906, in Rockdale, IL, to Mary and Anthony Kovacic. She was baptized on January 21st (which will be the day of her burial), and named for the Saint of the day, St. Agnes. This Saint remained significant to her all her life. She received the name Lambert in religious life, and was affectionately known as "Lamby".

There were three boys and eight girls in the Kovacic family. Sister Lambert was the oldest, and from age six the "little mother" of the family. She became very responsible at an early age, learning how to sew when she was only ten years old. Today she is survived by three of her devoted sisters, Antonia, Kate, and our own Sister Agnes Marie.

She met our Sisters when she was a student at St. John's School in Joliet. She became a postulant when she was only fifteen years old. In 1984 she celebrated her Diamond Jubilee of sixty years.

For thirty-four years she ministered as a primary school teacher in schools in Chicago, IL and Joliet, IL. She spoke of the challenge of teaching in those early days of her career when she taught eighty-three children in a classroom. She often combined her teaching ministry with church work, which she considered a great privilege.

In 1984 when she was asked what ministry was the most rewarding for her, she wrote of her ten years (1958 - 68) as a house mother for the little children at Guardian Angel Home. "I loved to care for small children. Considering that most of these children had no parents, I considered it a privilege to do for these little ones what their mothers or fathers would have done for them." She became their mother, often sitting up nights with sick children, clothing them, caring for them. She would joke that it was here that she learned all about baseball and became an avid sports' fan.

When she retired to the Motherhouse in 1973, and to OLA in 1979, she remained busy, helping others however she could. She had many projects. No scrap of paper was useless to her. She spent hours cutting, pasting, making "something out of nothing" to offer teachers for their children. For years she faithfully worked with the Congregation stamp project to help our mission in Brazil.



Our Sister Lambert experienced sickness and pain through most of her life, coming close to death many times. She did not complain, and spoke to those close to her that she had a "Pain Bank". Her sufferings were placed in the bank, for priests. It was her joy that eight of the boys she had taught became priests. Perhaps they will never realize the devoted advocate they have had through the prayer and suffering of our Sister.

Our Sisters describe Sister Lambert as quiet, gentle, and charitable. She was interested in others, and ready to respond with a kind word or smile. "Lamby" lived true to her namesake, St. Agnes. She was a witness to God present in our world. She was a special kind of martyr who offered her pain and sufferings for others.

Sister Lambert, we thank you for your sixty-eight years as our Sister. You have touched our lives by your gentle ways and faithfulness. May the "Lamb of God" Who takes away all sin and suffering be your joy for all eternity. Amen! Alleluia!