SISTER MARIE THADDEUS KOZILEK, O.S.F. (Mary) 669

Born:	June 20, 1903 in Hungary
Parents:	Joseph and Mary (Smzs) Kozilek
Postulancy:	December 1, 1929
Novitiate:	August 12, 1930
First Profession:	August 12, 1932
Final Profession:	August 12, 1935
Died:	Tuesday, June 5, 1990 at 3:00 p.m. at Imperial Nursing Home, Joliet

Ministry:

1932 - 1962	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Community Sewing Room
March 1962	Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Community Sewing Room
1962 - 1969	Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Community Sewing Room
1969 - 1971	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Community Sewing Room
1971 - 1976	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Portress
1976 - 1989	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Retired
1989 - 1990	Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Thursday, June 7, 1990 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, June 7, 1990 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Friday, June 8, 1990, Resurrection Cemetery at 9:00 a.m.

Survived by sister: Genevieve Garguila

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

On Thursday afternoon, June 5, 1990, at 3:00 p.m., our Sister Marie Thaddeus Kozilek was born to life eternal. A month ago she was admitted to St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet, IL. Her condition then was critical, but she fought valiantly to survive. Finally, unable to speak or swallow, she was admitted to a nursing home four days before she died. There, on Thursday, surrounded by our Sisters and her own sister Genevieve, she died peacefully as our Our Lady of Angels chaplain Father Patrick Gleason prayed the last words of anointing.

Mary Agatha was born in Hungary, on June 20, 1903, to Marie and Joseph Kozilek. When she was a child of four, her family immigrated to the United States. Shortly after, her father died suddenly of food poisoning. Unable to take care of her four children, Sister Marie's mother, who was a nurse, placed the children in Angel Guardian Home conducted by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Seattle, Washington. Her mother later remarried, had five more children, and was able to take care of the family. Sister Marie enjoyed telling stories of her family, and delighted these past years in visiting her sister Genevieve (Eva). Since May 15, 1990, Sister Marie's devoted sister, Eva was present at her bedside.

While still in her teens, Sister Marie traveled to Chicago to work for the Telephone Company. There she boarded with the Quealy family who became her good friends. It was in Chicago that she met a Franciscan Friar who told her about our Congregation, and spoke to her about the vocation to religious life that had been nurtured during her eight years with the sisters at Angel Guardian Home. On December 1, 1929, at the age of twenty seven, she became a postulant in our Congregation. She lived to celebrate her Golden Jubilee in 1982.

In 1932 Sister Marie began her life-long ministry of service for the Sisters of the Congregation. From that date until the close of the Sewing Department in 1971, she was the Sister who created postulant dresses, habits, mantles, veils and other convent clothing. She was affectionately called "Teddy". Sister Mary Wilhelmine, who worked so closely with her during those years in the sewing room, shares wonderful stories of "Teddy" who learned how to make a habit by tearing one apart to see all the pieces. Year after year, over four hundred new habits a year, one year eight hundred mantles...this was her ministry of service. Sometimes the hours were 7:30 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. to meet a deadline. And even though "one size fits all", there were dedicated efforts to make each habit just right for each Sister.

Along with this service Sister Marie used her special talents to decorate the Motherhouse for Jubilee days and special events, to take care of sacristy duties, to help on switchboard, and to show her special compassion for the Sisters who were infirm. When the Sewing room closed, Sister Marie began another full time ministry of service as portress at the Motherhouse. She spoke later "of the importance of giving prompt courteous service, and being aware of each Sister's needs."

Sister Marie was a quiet person, and very content to be alone. She had a variety of interests. She was intelligent and loved to read, especially historical books and good novels. She enjoyed opera and other classical music. The presence of birds at the Motherhouse and OLA delighted her. She would take every opportunity to "bird sit" and often entertained the birds by reading out loud to them.

Prayer was at the heart of her every day. She was devoted to the Blessed Virgin and would spend at least an hour praying the rosary. A few years ago she wrote these words that give us an insight to the depth of her care about community and her spirituality:

> "I want to grow deeper in my prayer life. I want to try to be kinder and humble and generous to others even when I don't feel like it. I pray for patience. I thank God for the chance to practice virtue and patience when I can neither see nor hear."

Our Sister Marie was a woman of service. Her life was a faithful life of giving to her Sisters. She now knows the full meaning of..."what you have done for the least of my sisters, you did for Me."

Sister Marie we thank you for your sixty-one years as our Sister. We rejoice with you as you now experience the fullness of life for all eternity. Amen! Alleluia!