

SISTER M. THEOLINDA LEUTHNER O.S.F. (Rose) 650

Born: May 3, 1897
Parents: John and Susan (Schnauz) Leuthner
Postulancy: September 7, 1916
Novitiate: August 12, 1917
First Profession: August 12, 1919
Final Profession: August 12, 1922
Died: Sunday, February 12, 1989 at 2:45 a.m. at
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home



Ministry:

1918 - 1924 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 5
1924 - 1931 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grades 4 & 5
1931 - 1932 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Convalescing
1932 - 1933 ✓ St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Art Department
March 1933 St. Bernard, Joliet, IL, Substitute Grades 1, 2, 3, & 4
1933 - 1934 ✓ St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Art Department
April, 1934 St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL, Grade 1
1934 - 1935 ✓ St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Art Department
1935 - 1937 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Grades 5 & 6
1937 - 1938 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Student at Art Institute
1938 - 1939 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Art Teacher in Grade School
January 1939 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Grades 3 & 4
1939 - 1942 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6
January 1942 Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH, Art Teacher
1942 - 1943 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 5
1943 - 1955 Immaculate Conception, Toledo, OH, Grade 4
1955 - 1958 St. Ann, Lansing, IL, Grade 4
1958 - 1959 Immaculate Conception, Toledo, OH, Grade 4
1959 - 1962 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Offset Print Shop
1962 - 1969 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Offset and Sewing
1969 - 1973 St. Francis Convent, Sewing and General Assistant
1973 - 1989 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Monday, February 13, 1989 from 2 - 7 p.m. with a prayer service
at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Monday, February 13, 1989 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Tuesday, February 14, 1989, Resurrection Cemetery.

Survived by: niece, Sister M. Paula Bingert, O.S.F.

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

At 2:45 a.m., on Sunday, February 12, 1989, Sr. Theolinda Leuthner was born to eternal life, nine hours after she collapsed while eating her supper at Our Lady of Angels.

Rose Marie was born on May 3, 1897, in Galion, Ohio to Susan and John Leuthner. There were nine children in the family, and tragedy struck when Sr. Theolinda was only one year old. Her father died, leaving her mother to raise the nine children, the youngest a newborn infant. Although relatives thought the young mother should distribute the children among them, she was determined to keep the family together. And with the help of her oldest child (mother to our Sr. Paula Bingert) she was able to succeed. Two of the boys became religious brothers. Sr. Theolinda was always devoted to her family. She is survived by her youngest brother, Robert, who is ninety years old, and living in Galion, Ohio; her niece, our own Sr. Paula Bingert; and by other nieces.

Sr. Theolinda became a postulant when she was seventeen, having already completed courses in Business College in Mansfield, Ohio. In 1989 she would have celebrated her seventy-third year in the Congregation.

At her death our Sisters reminisced about Sr. Theolinda, the teacher. Several Sisters were her students during her teaching days in Shelby and Toledo, Ohio. They hold wonderful memories of a soft-spoken, gentle woman, who always greeted them with a smile, told wonderful stories about scripture, and who was an excellent teacher. And they all remembered Fridays because that was Art Day, and Sr. Theolinda was at her best, bringing out their creative talents teaching them how to draw and paint and make wonderful crafts.

Sr. Theolinda was truly an artist. She studied art in 1937 at the Art Institute in Chicago. Many of her paintings still exist. Her painting of St. Francis is a treasure her brother Robert holds dear. Last year, while cleaning a cupboard at Guardian Angel Home, the director, Clyde Gehrig, discovered a lovely painting of a young child. He took the painting to OLA to ask the artist about her work. She explained it was a painting of the child Mary, because those orphans should know about our Blessed Mother when she was a girl. That picture is at the entrance to the chapel at GAH, a tribute to the artist, her devotion to Mary, and her love for children.

The Congregation benefited from the artistic talent of Sr. Theolinda. It was she who carefully prepared the art work and lettering for the primary grade "seat work" that became the teaching companion for so many of our Sisters through the years.

In 1959 Sr. Theolinda came to the Motherhouse and operated our Offset Print Shop. The work was tedious and yet she did it with the same gentle spirit and quiet smile that characterized her life. In 1973 she retired to Our Lady of Angels. She spoke often to Sr. Paula about being ready to meet her God. Her things were in order; her trunk was empty. She said "I've lived a good life, and I'm ready to die".

These last years as she became more frail, she seemed to have only one desire and that was to pray. Day and night she called out to Mary... "Hail Mary"... "Holy Mary"... hour after hour she would pray these words. And in our faith we believe that it was significant that on the feast of Our Lady she began the last hours of her life. She died with her rosary in her hand. Those at her bedside said that just a few moments before she died, there was a beautiful smile on her face.



Sr. Theolinda, we thank you for your many years with us in community. We will miss your presence among us. We know that Our Lady has heard your prayer. We ask you now to intercede with her for all of us, your Sisters. Amen. Alleluia