

SISTER M. LOUIS LIPTAK, O.S.F. (Anna) 678



Born: May 4, 1897 in Streator, Illinois
Parents: Louis and Veronica (Dapcamik) Liptak
Postulancy: December 8, 1913
Novitiate: August 12, 1914
First Profession: August 12, 1916
Final Profession: August 12, 1919
Died: Tuesday, January 8, 1991 at 11:30 a.m.
at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet

Ministry:

1915 - 1917 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grades 3 & 5
1917 - 1918 Sacred Heart, Chicago, IL, Grades 5 & 6
1918 - 1919 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grade 6
1919 - 1929 St. Stephen, Streator, IL Grades 7 & 8
1929 - 1934 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grade 8
1934 - 1936 Assumption, Chicago, IL, Superior and Principal, Grades 7 & 8
1936 - 1945 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grades 7 & 8
1945 - 1946 St. Mary High School, Columbus, OH, Religion, Algebra, Ancient History, Home Economics
1946 - 1952 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Superior and Principal, Grade 8
1952 - 1954 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grade 8
1954 - 1955 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 8
1955 - 1960 St. Joseph, Elgin, IL, Superior and Principal, Grade 8
1960 - 1964 Sacred Heart (Huron St.) Chicago, IL, Superior and Principal Grades 7 and 8
1964 - 1965 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 7
1965 - 1966 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 4
1966 - 1968 St. Pius X, Lombard, IL, Grade 4
1968 - 1971 St. Stephen, Streator, Grade 3, Assistant in School
1971 - 1975 St. Joseph, Elgin, IL, Assistant in School
1975 - 1991 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Thursday, January 10, 1991 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, January 10, 1991 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Friday, January 11, 1991 at 10:30 a.m.
Interment at Resurrection Cemetery

For those who have been faithful, O Lord,

life is not ended, but merely changed.

During this holy season of the Church year when we reflect on the meaning of "following the star", our oldest Sister by profession has experienced the reality of Epiphany. On January 8, 1991, at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, our Sister Louis Liptak was born to life eternal.

Realizing that her death was imminent, our Sisters kept vigil at her bedside these past weeks. She was very fragile and could no longer speak, but until the very day of her death seemed to respond by a turn of her head, or just a look. She had reached the end of a journey of ninety-three years of her life, and she was ready and eager to be with her God for all eternity.

Anna was born on May 4, 1897, in Streator, Illinois to Veronica and Louis Liptak. She was the middle child of a family of eight children, and the last to survive. In this very Catholic and caring family her faith was nurtured. She once wrote of her great joy in family celebrations where "we would attend Mass, all receive Holy Communion and then go out for a festive meal." She was devoted to her family, and they to her. Her nieces and nephews continued to keep close to her all these years.

Sister Louis entered the Congregation when she was sixteen years old. She always spoke fondly of our Sisters in Streator, Illinois who helped foster her vocation to religious life. She lived to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee of seventy-five years in 1989.

Sister Louis spent fifty-nine years in active ministry. She was an elementary school principal and teacher, and loved her ministry in the classroom. One of our Sisters spoke of Sister Louis as a teacher. "She had large classes, sometimes close to sixty students, but she was a great disciplinarian. Sometimes she was strict with the boys and invented a human 'paddle machine' that was very effective. She was a wonderful teacher, and would involve us in many projects. We had the opportunity to really get to know her. We admired her very much and she was an inspiration for many of us to choose a vocation to religious life."

She spent seventeen years at St. Stephen School in Johnstown, Pennsylvania and nineteen years in her home parish, St. Stephen School in Streator, Illinois. She returned to each school four different times during her long years of ministry.

She served our Sisters as a Superior for seventeen years. One of our Sisters spoke of Sister Louis, the superior, with tender memories. "She loved the young Sisters and was very understanding of us. It was a tough love in many ways, because she had great expectations of us. She was demanding on herself and on others. Cleanliness was so important to her, and she expected us to clean and wax meticulously. But there was also that dimension of her leadership that was always planning good times for us. She loved parties and celebrations. When we would see that twinkle in her eye we knew we were in for some surprise. She had a way of arranging 'educational experiences' that included such events as International Horse Shows, plays, operas, and train trips to beautiful Galena, Illinois."



When Sister Louis retired to Our Lady of Angels in 1975, she remained active in a ministry of visiting others. She brought cheer to both the infirm and staff at OLA. As her health failed she would simply shake her head and say, "I'm running on low lead today!"

We all will remember Sister Louis as a Franciscan lover of all creation. She delighted in the beauty of nature, flowers, and all God's creatures. No rule of the house could stop her from scattering crumbs on the window sill of her room to invite the birds to visit. Once she was observed singing to the birds. She was forever praising the glory of all God's creation.

Her love of nature, her gracious manner, her cheerfulness were rooted in a faith filled spirituality. She had a particular love and devotion for our Lady under the title of Mary Immaculate. In her final years she ministered to us by her very presence, and the witness of her life-long commitment.

Sister Louis, we thank you for your seventy-seven years as our Sister. We will miss you, but we rejoice with you as you experience the reward of your long life journey of "following the star." May you experience the reality of Epiphany forever and ever. Amen! Alleluia!