

SISTER M. LEON MELLIKANT O.S.F. (Julia) 660

Born: September 1, 1910
Parents: John and Mary (Hric) Mellikant
Postulancy: October 3, 1925
Novitiate: August 12, 1926
First Profession: August 12, 1928
Final Profession: August 12, 1932
Died: Friday, October 13, 1989 at 3:00 a.m. at
St. Joseph Medical Center, Joliet, IL



Ministry:

1928 - 1942 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8
1942 - 1946 Immaculate Conception, Toledo, OH, Grade 6
1946 - 1950 Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH, Grade 7
1950 - 1956 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grades 7 & 8
1956 - 1962 St. John, Loveland, CO, Grades 7 & 8, Superior and
Principal
1962 - 1967 St. Michael, Worthington, OH, Grades 7 & 8
1967 - 1969 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Superior and Principal
1969 - 1974 St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL, Grade 5
1974 - 1975 Annunciation, Aurora, IL, Grade 4
1975 - 1983 ✓ Holy Family, Joliet, IL, Grade 5
1983 - 1988 ✓ St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Community Service
1988 - 1989 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Sunday, October 15, 1989 from 2 - 7:00 p.m. with a
Prayer Service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Sunday, October 15, 1989 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Monday, October 16, 1989, Resurrection Cemetery.
at 9 a.m.

Survived by sisters: Ann Schaser, Sister M. Lea Mellikant and
Sister M. Gerald Mellikant

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

On Friday, October 13, 1989, at 3:00 a.m., at St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, IL., our Sister Leon Mellikant entered into the fullness of life with our God. Although she had been in the hospital in a semi-coma condition, her death was unexpected that night. She died, as she had lived her life, quietly and gently.

Julia was born in Chicago, IL, on September 1, 1910, to Mary and John Mellikant. She was one of ten children, three of whom died in infancy. Her immigrant parents from Czechoslovakia taught her lessons in faith, the meaning of hard work, the importance of kindness to others. In her family home, in St. Francis de Sales Parish, she learned the meaning of loving community. She is survived by her Ann, and our own dear Sisters Lea and Gerald. She will be dearly missed by them.

Sr. Leon entered the Congregation when she was fifteen years old. Her sisters tell the story of the young girl with golden red hair who told the pastor, Father Wester, that she wanted to go to the convent. He questioned her about how she knew she had a vocation. Her answer was simply, "I hear the voice of God calling me." And that voice of God continued to call. Faithful to that call she lived to celebrate her diamond jubilee of sixty years in 1988.

Sr. Leon was a dedicated teacher for fifty-five years, serving in schools in Ohio, Illinois and Colorado. She had a reputation of being an excellent teacher. She was principal and superior both at St. John's in Loveland, Colorado and St. Joseph's in Joliet, Illinois. She wrote about her teaching ministry in words that described her great love for her students and her desire that they would grow and experience happy lives. She worked with the CYO programs, often giving her attention to delinquent girls. She remained concerned about her students, writing to many of them through all these years.

Sr. Leon enjoyed living in community. Those who knew her best describe her as joyful, peaceful, quiet and kind. She would often say, "don't say anything, if you can't say something nice." In 1988 when she retired to Our Lady of Angels, she continued helping wherever she could. She cut stamps, and was always on the alert to help some sister carry her plate in the dining room or to do countless little acts of kindness that showed her loving concern.

She was a woman grateful for God's blessing in her life, and who expressed that gratitude in prayer. She was known for her devotion to Our Lady, St. Joseph, and the Guardian Angels. When she had a special need she would simply ask the Angels to "hug God" for her, and hear her prayer.

Perhaps one of the dearest memories of Sr. Leon is our picture of the "three musketeers", Sisters Lea, Leon and Gerald. The genuine joy they experienced with each other spoke to us of dedicated sisterly love and care. How significant that at the very time Sr. Leon was dying, both her sisters, unknown to each other, were awake and restless. Sr. Lea had just returned to her room after praying in chapel, Sr. Gerald was praying her rosary in her room when at 3:00 a.m., they were told of the death of their dear sister. They are truly one in heart and mind.

Sr. Leon, you have witnessed to us by your life and death the meaning of faithful consecration and loving service. We thank you for your many years as our Sister. We will miss your presence among us, but we rejoice with you in your new and unending LIFE. So we pray, Alleluia!

