

SISTER M. VIRGIL MILLER, O.S.F. (Bertilla) 676

Born: November 4, 1900 in Oran, Missouri
Parents: Edward and Caroline (Kilhoefner) Miller
Postulancy: September 11, 1916
Novitiate: August 12, 1917
First Profession: August 12, 1919
Final Profession: August 12, 1922
Died: Sunday, December 9, 1990 at 2:40 p.m.
at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet



Ministry:

1918 - 1919 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 2 & Music
St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 3
1919 - 1920 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 2 & Music
1920 - 1921 St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL, Music
1921 - 1922 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grade 3 & Music
1922 - 1923 St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL, Music
1923 - 1929 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Music and Organist
1929 - 1931 St. Joseph, Freeport, IL, Grades 1 & 2, Music and
Organist
1931 - 1933 St. Dionysius, Benton, MO, Grades 1, 2, & 3, Organist
1933 - 1948 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Music and Organist
1948 - 1949 St. Joseph, Elgin, IL, Grades 5 & 6, Organist
1949 - 1951 St. Bernard, Joliet, IL, Grades 5 & 6, Organist
1951 - 1952 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Grades 5 & 6, Organist
1952 - 1956 St. Denis, Benton, MO, Superior & Principal, Grades 6, 7 & 8
1956 - 1961 St. Mary, Mt. Vernon, IL, Superior & Principal, Grades 7 & 8,
Organist
1961 - 1964 Our Lady of Grace, Muskegon, MI, Superior & Principal,
Grades 5, 6, 7, & 8
1964 - 1974 St. Ann, Lansing, IL, Grades 7 & 8
1974 - 1983 Divine Savior, Norridge, IL, Tutoring, Learning Center and
Office Aide
1983 - 1990 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Thursday, December 13, 1990 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. with
Prayer Service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, December 13, 1990 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Friday, December 14, 1990 at Resurrection Cemetery
9:00 a.m.

Survived by brother, Andrew Miller

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

On Sunday afternoon, December 9, 1990, at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, our Sister Virgil Miller was born to life eternal.

It is the season of Advent. How appropriate that Sister Virgil would at long last meet her God during this season of anticipation. Our dear Sister, suffering from several strokes and a crippling arthritic condition, had spent these past years waiting. Her body was so frail. She was not able to respond to others. Truly her journey to eternity was one of patient waiting.

Her death came quietly and very gently. Bishop Kaffer, who was at Our Lady of Angels that afternoon, was called to her bedside to pray the prayers for the dying. She was surrounded by our Sisters. At the Bishop's words, "go forth my soul" she was set free for all eternity.

Bertilla was born on November 4, 1900, in Oran, Missouri to Caroline and Edward Miller. There were six girls and two boys in the family. She was the youngest of the six girls. It was in this very religious family that she learned lessons of caring for others, hard work, and the importance of God in her life. Four of the girls in this family entered our Congregation. One, whose religious name was Sister Lawrence, later returned home to help her parents. Her other two sisters were Sister Emanuel and Sister Michael. She also had two aunts in our Congregation. Today, only the youngest brother, Andrew, is living.

Sister Virgil entered the Congregation in 1916 when she was fifteen years old, finishing her high school days at St. Francis Academy. In 1979 she celebrated her Diamond Jubilee of sixty years in the Congregation.

Sister Virgil was a talented musician, expert in violin, organ and piano. She gave this gift of music in ministry throughout her active years. She served at seventeen different parishes, combining her ministry in music with teaching in the elementary school. She served six of her years in her home area of Benton, Missouri. In 1961 she was principal, superior, teacher and musician in our new parish of Our Lady of Grace in Muskegon, Michigan. In 1983 she retired to Our Lady of Angels.

For twelve years she served our Sisters as a superior. Those who lived with her speak of her quiet gentle ways, her care and concern for them. In 1971 she wrote about community life in these words. "Community is sharing each other's joys and sorrows, being thoughtful of each other, creating the feeling that each Sister in the house counts." She gave to her sisters and always expressed how her sisters gave to her. "The Sisters are an inspiration to me in prayer life, work and companionship."



So many Sisters speak of her ability to be a good friend. It has been inspirational to all of us to see the devotion of some of her long-time friends. Week after week they sat at her bedside these past years in prayer and companionship. Her only response was a tiny grunt or opening her large blue eyes.

She was a quiet woman but she knew how to enjoy life. She was at home listening to good music, watching a ball game or working a puzzle. She loved nature and spoke often of its wonders, especially those she experienced on a trip to Canada.

Sister Virgil, we thank you for your seventy-one years as our Sister. You have touched our lives and we will miss you. You have taught us the all important lesson of waiting for the Lord's coming. We rejoice with you as you experience the eternal joy of Christmas forever and ever. Amen! Alleluia!