

**SISTER RITA PAWLIK, O.S.F. (Richardine) 728**

**Born:** April 30, 1920  
**Parents:** Frank W. and Louise A. (Fender) Pawlik  
**Entered from:** St. Michael, Wheaton, IL  
**Postulancy:** September 8, 1936  
**Novitiate:** August 12, 1937  
**First Profession:** August 12, 1939  
**Final Profession:** August 12, 1942  
**Died** Saturday, February 11, 1995 (Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes) in St. Joseph Medical Center, Joliet, IL at 5:35 p.m.



**Ministry:**  
1939 - 47 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 1, Kindergarten  
1947 - 50 St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL, Kindergarten, Grade 2  
1950 - 51 St. Michael, Worthington, OH, Organist, Choir, Grade 2  
1951 - 52 Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH, Organist, Choir  
1952 - 54 St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL, Organist, Grades 3, 4  
1954 - 55 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI, Organist, Grades 4-6  
1955 - 58 St. Joseph, Manhattan, IL, Organist, Grades 1, 2, 3, 4  
1958 - 59 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Grade 5  
1959 - 60 St. Ann, Lansing, IL, Grade 7  
1960 - 61 St. John the Evangelist, Loveland, CO, Grades 5, 6  
1961 - 65 Assumption, Chicago, IL, Organist, Grades 5, 6  
1965 - 75 St. Bernard, Joliet, IL, Organist, Grades 4, 6  
1975 - 78 Victory Memorial Hospital, Waukegan, IL, Patient Advocate  
1978 - 86 St. Therese Hospital, Waukegan, IL, Pastoral Associate  
1986 - 90 St. Therese Medical Center, Waukegan, IL, Staff Chaplain  
1990 - 95 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Director of Admissions, Pastoral Care Assistant

**Wake:** Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Wednesday February 15, 1995  
2-7:00 p.m. with a prayer service at 3:30 p.m.

**Mass of Christian Burial:** Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL Wednesday, February 15, 1995  
at 7:00 p.m.

**Burial:** Thursday, February 16, 1995 leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:30 a.m. to  
Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8-L351-G7.

**Survived by:** her sister Mildred (Vinton) Walworth of Sister Bay, WI and brother Oliver  
(Herta) Pawlik of Lakeland, FL and nieces, nephews, and cousins.

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

Sister Rita Pawlik was born in Wheaton, Illinois to Frank and Louise Fender Pawlik on April 30, 1920 and baptized Rita Frances at St. Michael's Church in Wheaton on May 16, 1920. She was happy growing up in Wheaton, not far from the train station, where her father was a tailor. "Father," she stated, "was always friendly and I guess I learned my sociability from him."

Rita entered the postulancy on September 8, 1936 after being an aspirant at St. Francis Preparatory for two years. The following August, Rita entered the novitiate and was given the name, Sister M. Richardine.

After her first profession of vows in August 1939, Sister Rita began her career as a teacher and organist. She taught for 36 years in parish schools in Colorado, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Illinois, including ten years at St. Bernard's in Joliet. Her love of people was evident and she enjoyed her years of teaching. In 1975 she became the first patient advocate at Victory Memorial Hospital in Waukegan, Illinois and helped create her own role. She visited patients, answered questions, but most of all, listened. After three years at Victory Memorial, Sister Rita joined the staff at St. Theresa's Medical Center in Waukegan, as pastoral associate and then Staff Chaplain. During her twelve years there, she saw many changes, though one thing that remained constant was her devotion to the patients and their families. As was stated in the Summer 1987 edition of Stethoscope, the newsletter of St. Theresa's Medical Center, patients and their families treasured Sister Rita's "kindness and friendship during their time of need and are grateful for the affection that they were given."

In December 1989 her good friend Sister Phyllis Pitz invited her to assume the position of Director of Admissions at Our Lady of Angels, a position which she held until her death. She enjoyed her ministry, enjoyed interviewing possible residents and was always happy when she could report 100% occupancy. In 1992 she added the role of pastoral care assistant to her other duties at OLA.

Sister Rita knew, and often wrote in her many letters to her family and friends, that since she reached her 70's she was slowing down. When she fell last August, her recovery was slow, but she continued her work at OLA. However, on January 13, she suffered a hemorrhage and was hospitalized for seventeen days. Though she seemed to be recovering, on February 3 she suffered another hemorrhage and lingered in a coma until on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Mary, to whom she had much devotion, came with her Son, Jesus, to take her home to heaven.

Rita you once wrote, "The love of God can be verbally experienced, but the actuality is seen and appreciated in a person." We thank you, Rita, for being a person who has brought God's love to us. Continue to watch over us and pray for us, your Franciscan Sisters, your family members and all of your friends, as you sing praise to God forever. Amen. Alleluia.

