

SISTER M. LUELLA SCHWEIK, O.S.F. 717

Born: March 14, 1899
Parents: Paul and Mary Strittmatter Schweik
Postulancy: September 6, 1919
Novitiate: August 12, 1920
First Profession: August 12, 1922
Final Profession: August 12, 1925
Died: Tuesday December 28, 1993 at 12:20 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet



Ministry:

1921-22 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Music
1922-33 Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Chicago, IL, Music, Grade 1
1933-35 Sacred Heart Engelwood, Chicago, IL, Music/Organist
1935-36 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Music/Organist
1936-37 Sacred Heart Englewood, Chicago, IL, Music/Organist
1937-39 Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Chicago, IL, Music
1939-40 Sacred Heart Englewood, Chicago, IL, Music/Organist
1940-52 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Music/Organist
1952-57 Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH, Music/Organist
1957-61 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Music/Organist
1961-62 Sts. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Music
1962-76 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Music, Private lessons
1976-82 Assumption, Chicago, IL, Parish visitor
1982-93 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Thursday, December 30, 1993
2-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, December 30, 1993 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL on Friday December 31, 1993
leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:30 a.m.

Survived by: Nieces and Nephews

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

Sister Luella Schweik was born on March 14, 1899 in Chicago and was taken by her parents to be baptized at St. Francis Xavier Church. Her parents Paul Schweik and Mary Strittmatter Schweik gave the name Maria Friderica to this new daughter, their eleventh child. Her brother Arthur was born later. Maria completed eight years of education in the parochial school system. When she was twenty years old, Maria became a postulant with the Sisters of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois. Entering the Novitiate, she was given the name of Sister Luella. She continued her studies during her formation period in Joliet and continued to study, especially in the field of music, for many years to come. Having completed a Bachelor's Degree at the College of St. Francis with a major in music theory, Sister Luella studied music at DePaul University in Chicago, American Conservatory of Music, and several other music schools including the Pius X School of Music in New York, where she studied liturgical music just before the major liturgical reforms in the Church. Sister Luella participated in and planned workshops. She served on planning committees to host combined choral groups of over 700 voices for the Diocese of Columbus.

Beginning at St. Francis Academy in Joliet, Sister Luella served over 50 years in the field of music in various schools in Columbus, Ohio and in Chicago, Illinois. For twenty-six years, Sister Luella ministered at St. Francis De Sales on Chicago's East Side, teaching music and giving private lessons. Sister Luella enjoyed her ministry of music. She also enjoyed the Sisters in her Congregation. In 1971 she wrote to her Area Coordinator saying that "living together in religious life...is the way of life which unites us and challenges me to live my faith, hope, and love for God every day in the service for others. ...I am able to give understanding, loyalty, trust and human encouragement in helping others to persevere in their efforts to grow in faith, hope and love...and I seek from others a return of understanding, trust and respect and consideration for what I am physically capable of doing."

Her last six years of active ministry were spent at Assumption Parish in Chicago as a Parish Visitor. In 1982, Sister Luella moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in Joliet. It was only in the last several weeks that Sister Luella was diagnosed as having a brain tumor. Following treatment at St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, Sister Luella returned to Our Lady of Angels to be with her Sisters and to enjoy the company of her relatives and friends whose visits, phone calls and letters were a comfort to her. The OLA Staff and many of the Sisters spent time at her bedside. Sister Alfred Marie Russell remained at her side as a friend faithful through this last illness. Father Pat Gleeson, Members of the Central Administration and many others prayed with her. She grew weaker through the Christmas holidays and just after noon on Tuesday, December 28, 1993, Sister Luella quietly and peacefully went to her God.

Sister Luella, we are grateful for you and the gift of your music that you shared so devotedly with your students and with all of us. We ask you, as you unite with the whole heavenly chorus in praising God, to pray for us your Franciscan Sisters, your family and your students, that our lives may be lived in harmony with one another so that one day we also may be united with God in faith, hope and love. Amen. Alleluia.

