

SISTER M. BERNADONE SURGES, O.S.F. (Margaret) 703

Born: July 5, 1905 in Joliet, IL
Parents: Peter and Catherine (Niemann) Surges
Postulancy: September 5, 1927
Novitiate: August 12, 1928
First Profession: August 12, 1930
Final Profession: August 12, 1933
Died: Sunday, August 9, 1992 at 9:30 p.m. at
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet
Ministry:



1930 - 1934 St. Michael, Sigel, IL, Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8
1934 - 1935 Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, OH, Grades 4, 5, & 6
March 1935 Annunciation, Aurora, IL, Grades 4, 5, & 6
1935 - 1936 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Grades 5 & 6
1936 - 1939 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grades 5 & 6
Jan. 1939 St. Mary High School, Columbus, OH, Rel/Eng/Ger/History
1939 - 1941 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 8
1941 - 1942 St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet, IL, Student at CSF
1942 - 1944 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Shorthand, Typing
1944 - 1949 SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Shorthand, Typing
1949 - 1951 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Secretarial Work
1951 - 1952 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Secretarial Work
1952 - 1953 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Latin and English
1953 - 1954 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Religion, Shorthand and Typing
1954 - 1956 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Shorthand, Typing, Bookkeeping
1956 - 1958 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Religion, English, Business
1958 - 1961 St. Procop, Cleveland, OH, English, Business
1961 - 1964 SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Religion, English, Business
1964 - 1968 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Clerical Work
1968 - 1969 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Clerical Work
1969 - 1970 St. Michael, Sigel, IL, Clerical Work
1970 - 1990 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Tutoring, hospital volunteer,
Catechist: St. Mary Carmelite, St. Bernard, St. Mary Parishes
Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Wednesday, August 12, 1992 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Service at 4:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

Mass of Christian Burial: Wednesday, August 12, 1992 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Thursday, August 13, 1992, 9:30 a.m. Resurrection Cemetary

Survived by brothers, Victor and William; sisters, Rita, Catherine Sawyer,
and Emma Hancock; nieces and nephews

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

Sister Bernadone Surges was born in Joliet, Illinois to Peter Surges and Catherine Niemann Surges on July 5, 1905, and was baptized Margaret at St. John's Church in Joliet, the parish where the Joliet Franciscans had their beginnings just 60 years before her birth. Margaret spent her early years in rural Joliet, living with her parents, and her many brothers and sisters. Margaret completed grammar school and two years of Commercial School before entering the Postulancy of the Franciscan Sisters in September of 1927. Upon reception into the Novitiate, Margaret was given the name of Sister Mary Bernadone, the family name of St. Francis of Assisi. Her devotion to St. Francis continued throughout her life. It is significant that we celebrate this Mass of Christian burial for Sister Bernadone on the 62nd anniversary of her first profession of vows.

Prayer and ministry went hand-in-hand in Sister Bernadone's life. In one of her letters to Mother Thomasine requesting to renew vows, Sister Bernadone writes, "With what joy we turn to the thought of returning to St. Francis and of being able to see our newly decorated Chapel." Sister Bernadone spent many hours in prayer in that Chapel throughout her life, and spent many hours reading and updating herself on various aspects of Spirituality.

Sister Bernadone received her Bachelor's Degree from the College of St. Francis and her Master's Degree in Education from De Paul University, and in 1978, was awarded a Certificate from Aylesford Carmelite Institute of Spirituality.

Sister Bernadone enjoyed her ministry of teaching and continued as a Catechist until failing health caused her to leave this ministry. She would often pray for Catechists, that the wisdom of the Spirit would guide their work. Sister Bernadone was truly a woman of dedication and determination, one deeply concerned with the needs of the poor and for the religious formation of youth. She spent many years of her life devoted to these goals. As late as 1976, Sister Bernadone wrote, "I wish to continue in my ministry as long as bodily health and mind are apt...I would believe that the only one who would call for a pause is God Himself."

Although she retired from her ministry of religious education in 1990, Sister Bernadone never retired from her ministry of prayer. Describing her retirement Sister Bernadone wrote, "Prayer seems to be the sustaining medicine in these last days."

Sister Bernadone, we pray that the sustaining medicine of your prayer has brought you eternal healing and life in God's presence. Continue to pray for your family members and for your Franciscan Sisters. Continue to pray that God may inspire Catechists with wisdom as they share His Word, and that we may be mindful of the needs of the poor. May you enjoy the magnificence of your Father's house in heaven, which far surpasses that of a newly decorated Chapel.

