

**SISTER M. CHARLES ZIEVERINK, O.S.F. (Loretto Grace) 667**

**Born:** December 15, 1893 in Chicago, Illinois  
**Parents:** Bernard and Rosa (Heinz) Zieverink  
**Postulancy:** December 8, 1910  
**Novitiate:** August 12, 1911  
**First Profession:** August 12, 1913  
**Final Profession:** August 12, 1919  
**Died:** Thursday, May 10, 1990 at 10:10 a.m. at  
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home



**Ministry:**

1912 - 1915 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Music Teacher  
1915 - 1922 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Music, Organist  
1922 - 1933 St. Francis Academy, Teacher of Harp, Piano, Violin  
1933 - 1971 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Teacher of Harp,  
Piano and Orchestra, Assistant Dean of Students  
1936 - 1940, Dean of Resident Students 1940 - 1945,  
Music Club Moderator 1956 - 1962  
1971 - 1979 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Private Music Lessons  
1979 - 1990 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

**Wake:** Friday, May 11, 1990 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

**Mass of Christian Burial:** Friday, May 11, 1990 at 7 p.m.

**Burial:** Saturday, May 12, 1990, Resurrection Cemetery at 9:00 a.m.

Survived by nieces and nephews and other relatives.

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

On Thursday morning, May 10, 1990, at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, our Sister Charles Zieverink was born to life eternal. During the days before her death, our Sisters kept constant vigil at her bedside. She died gently and peacefully.

Loretto Grace was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1893 to Rose and Bernard Zieverink. She had three brothers and one little sister, our Sister Leo who died in 1976. Her father was well known to many of our sisters. For years he lived in St. Joseph cottage located on the Motherhouse grounds and helped with carpentry work for the convent.

At the age of seventeen she became a postulant. In this year of cherishing 125 years of Congregation heritage, it is amazing to realize that Sister Charles experienced 80 of those years. At age ninety six she held the honor of being the oldest Sister in our Congregation. Her life was a long one, a symphony of dedication, generosity, enthusiasm, and faith.

Teaching music was her ministry. Many students learned piano, orchestra, and harp from her. Only in 1979, as she retired to OLA, did she put aside her harp, and insist that it be sold so that one of her students could experience the joy it had given her.

In 1933 she became a music faculty member at the College of St. Francis, and remained there for thirty nine years. Her students have fond memories of her unique technique of teaching rhythm accuracy by keeping time on their right shoulder. She was always teased about her "lopsided students" who became that way through her constant beating on their shoulder. Her attitude toward her students was one of praise and affirmation. Her students became very dear to her, and for years she kept a listing of all of them. To assist beginning harp students she prepared the "G. Schrimmer Harp Album of Compositions for the Harp." She became well known for her mother and daughter harp quartet, and some of her students became outstanding professional harpists.

She was unassuming in her manner, but her talent and achievements were publicly recognized. In 1968 she received the Steinway Teaching Award for Outstanding Service. In 1970 she received the Outstanding Educator of America Honor, and an honorary doctorate from the College of St. Francis. The words written at the time of receiving this doctorate exemplify Sister Charles. "This degree is presented for thirty-nine years as a dedicated teacher embodying throughout a rich life, in personal character and professional activity, the ideals of St. Francis of Assisi."

Sister Charles played her harp for many festive occasions. CSF Freshmen remember being awakened at Christmas time to harp music and singing by the Senior class. Sisters at the Motherhouse remember New Years Day and a surprise visit from the College Sisters singing a Happy New Year Song, accompanied by harpist, Sister Charles.



There is another aspect to her ministry at the College of St. Francis. She was Dean of Resident Students from 1940 - 1945. She understood the meaning of "tough love" long before it was a popular term. Many recall her omnipresence in the middle of the night, breaking up parties after "lights out", always warning of her coming by a characteristic rustle of her rosary and a little cough. One of our Sisters wrote about her: "As our Dean of Students during my entire four years at CSF, we always knew that Sister Charles loved us even when she reprimanded us. Specifically I recall dropping a coke bottle at 1:30 a.m. and facing Sister almost immediately behind me; I'll never know, but I think she must have been sleeping in her habit."

Sister Charles enjoyed having a good time, and had many good friends. She added humor and laughter to a party, and delighted in a special treat of Limburger cheese and beer. After the death of her beloved Sister Leo, she arranged a pizza and beer party for those who had cared for her sister.

She was a religious woman of dedication and community. In 1971 she wrote, "I want to give my Sisters my attention, concern, love, trust and understanding." She leaves us with memories of a woman who showed leadership in developing a Fine Arts program for the College of St. Francis, as well as a woman who made us laugh with her humorous way of insisting on wearing her favorite knitted cap whenever possible. Perhaps her choice of a song to be sung at her funeral mass captures most deeply the spirit and life of Sister Charles: "All I Ask of You is Forever to Remember Me as Loving You."

Sister Charles we thank you for your eighty years as our Sister. We ask your special intercession for the new Fine Arts Project at the College of St. Francis. We will miss you, but we rejoice with you in the fullness of harmony you now experience with your God. Amen! Alleluia!