

# Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

On Sunday morning, February 10, 2019, our sister, Pauline Schutz, brought to completion the final chapter of a life well-lived. A model of minority, prayer, poverty and conversion, she lived out these Franciscan core values by example. Throughout her life, she embodied them in different and distinct ways that left a deep impression upon all those whom she encountered from six to ninety-six.

Born on May 26, 1931, Pauline came into the world in the company of her beloved twin sister Geraldine. Blessed with the birth of two infant daughters, their parents, Nicholas and Hermina (Bloechl) Schutz, lovingly embraced the precious lives entrusted to their care. Raised on the Northwest side of Chicago, Pauline, along with her brother and three sisters, attended St. Pascal Elementary School, where she first met the Sisters of Saint Francis of Mary Immaculate. Formed in the ways of faith by her family and engaged in the building up of a vibrant parish community, Pauline continued to grow into her Franciscan vocation under the guidance and direction of the School Sisters of Saint Francis at Alvernia High School, Class of 1949. With a joyful and generous heart, she responded to the call of the Spirit, and like a number of "Pascalites" before her, she made her way to Joliet where she was accepted as a postulant on September 5, 1949.

As the years of Pauline's initial formation unfolded, she devoted herself to prayer, community life and study. On August 12, 1950, she was received into the novitiate and given the religious name, Sister Alice Marie. Moving through the formative processes that were preparing her to meet the demands of the multiple facets of life as a Sister of Saint Francis, she invested herself in the study of History and Education at the College of Saint Francis, the first of many degree programs that would inform and influence her connections with worlds within and beyond the classroom. Characterized by one of her superiors as "a conscientious observer of the Rule and also a promising follower of Saint Francis," Sister Alice Marie was a natural born educator with a creative imagination and a real ability to "lead people out." She possessed a powerful intuition and a genuine inner capacity for gaining insight into the human condition.

For twenty-five years, from 1952 through 1977, Sister Pauline devoted herself whole-heartedly to some of the primary ministries of the Congregation at the time, namely – parishbased school ministries as well as religious education and catechist formation. Ever attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit, her particular affection and solicitude for those made vulnerable by the circumstances of life – the elderly, those

## Alleluia!



#### Sister Pauline Schutz, OSF

living with serious health conditions, and those heart-broken by experiences of grief and loss, she came to the realization that such encounters signaled the need for something more than individual works of mercy over and above one's so-called "day job." As greater ministerial collaboration between the ordained and the non-ordained intensified in a post-Vatican II church, Sister Pauline was invited by her pastor, colleague and friend, Father J. Shimanek of St. Pius X (Lombard, Illinois), to consider moving from teaching, administration and coordination of religious education and to begin a new ministry, Pastoral Associate, that began with working with the elderly. After thirty-eight years of pastoral ministry, from 1978 through 2016, there was hardly a person at St. Pius X parish or in the broader Lombard area who had not been touched by Sister Pauline in some direct or indirect way.

In 2016, looking to the future, and mindful of the increasing limitations she was experiencing as a consequence of diminishing eye-sight, Sr. Pauline agreed to move to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home where new opportunities for caring and compassion for the People of God awaited her. Always close to members of her extended family as well as members of the Congregation, and countless people met through her various encounters, Sister Pauline continued her ministries of prayer, presence and accompaniment.

As we remember with fondness our Sister Pauline, let us hold fast to the words found in Saint Paul's *First Letter to the Corinthians* 13:12, words that capture her life and legacy. And let us imagine her saying to each one of us and to all of us: "Make them your own."

"At present we see dimly and indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face.

At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.

Faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love. "

Alleluia. Alleluia.

### Sister Pauline Schutz, OSF

May 26, 1931 — February 10, 2019

Born: May 26, 1931

Parents: Nicholas J. Schutz and Minnie Bloechl

Postulancy: September 5, 1949
Novitiate: August 12, 1950
First Profession: August 12, 1952
Final Profession: August 13, 1955
Entered New Life: February 10, 2019

#### **Ministry History**

1952-1954 Teacher: Grades 4 & 5, St. John the Baptist, Joliet, Illinois

1954-1961 Teacher: Grades 4, 5, 6, & 7, Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Ohio

1961-1962 Teacher: Grade 8, Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet, Illinois

1962-1968 Teacher: Grades 7 & 8, Superior and Principal, St. Edward, Ashland, Ohio

1968-1969 Teacher: Grade 8, St. Cecilia, Columbus, Ohio 1969-1971 Teacher: Grade 8, St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio

1971-1977 Teacher: Grade 8 & CCD Coordinator, St. Mary, Shelby, Ohio

1977-1978 Teacher: Grade 6, St. Pius X, Lombard, Illinois 1978-2016 Pastoral Minister: St. Pius X, Lombard, Illinois

2016-2019 Prayer, Presence, Community Service: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois

Wake: Friday, February 15, 2019, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet Friday, February 15, 2019, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet Mass of Christian Burial: Friday, February 15, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

Burial: Saturday, February 16, 2019, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 8:30 a.m. to

Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois

Interment: Section 8, Lot 345, Grave 6, Resurrection Cemetery

Predeceased by: By her parents, Nicholas J. and Hermina (Bloechl) Schutz, Brother, Nicholas and

Sisters: Florence, Porter, and Geraldine Draniczarek

Survived by: Her sister, Georgiana Glennon, nieces and nephews