

Sisters of St. Francis

of Mary Immaculate

Early in the morning of February 10, 2023, the heartfelt prayer of our Sister Thadine Kaminski was answered. The long-awaited time had come to complete her journey home to God, and she was prepared. Trusting confidently in God's gracious love and divine mercy, she believed that the sufferings of the past and present moment were nothing compared to the coming glory that soon would be revealed to her (Romans 8:18). Running with patience the race that was set before her, she held fast to an unwavering faith in the Lord's promise of eternal life and looked forward with a certain hope to being reunited with all of the loved ones who made up the cloud of witnesses that had surrounded her throughout her life (Heb 12:1-2).

Born in Chicago, Illinois, to her loving parents, Stella (Kopczyk) and James Kaminski, Mary Ann was blessed with four brothers and three sisters. Growing up in a large family, she learned much about love, respect and caring for others. Influenced by the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate who staffed St. Francis Xavier parish school, young Mary Ann was attracted to the spirit and life she witnessed in the community of the Sisters. Encouraged to discern her vocational calling, at the age of thirteen she became an aspirant with the Joliet Franciscans and attended St. Francis Academy in Joliet, Illinois.

Entering the postulancy in the fall of 1956, Mary Ann completed her final year of high school and was received into the novitiate on August 13, 1957. On that day, she was clothed in the habit, given her religious name, Sister M. Thadine, and entrusted to her patron saint, St. Jude Thaddeus. Professing her first vows on August 13, 1959, she continued to move through the stages of initial formation committing herself wholeheartedly to the ministry of caring for her Sisters in countless ways. On August 13, 1964, Sr. Thadine professed her final vows and perpetually embraced the Franciscan way of life. Reflecting on her experience as a young woman religious, she wrote to Mother Borromeo that nothing gave her greater joy than serving the elderly and infirm Sisters at the Motherhouse. For Sr. Thadine, this manner of doing God's work involved much more than simply providing them with assistance and sustenance for their bodies, it involved person-centered attentiveness to their spirits as well.

Following the example of the creative and dedicated Sisters who mentored Sr. Thadine in the arts of cooking, baking and domestic services, she acquired not only the techniques necessary for her various ministries, but also a deeper understanding of the spirituality of nourishing and caring for others. Given the opportunity to further develop her skills and

Alleluia!



Sister M. Thadine Kaminski, OSF

abilities, Sr. Thadine completed an Associate of Arts degree program in Culinary Arts at Joliet Junior College in 1975. For more than three decades, Sr. Thadine invested herself in creating the conditions that would allow those who resided, worked or studied in the Congregation's institutions and parish convents (the Motherhouse, Our Lady of Angels, the College of St. Francis, St. Francis Academy, Guardian Angel Home and St. Peter's, Mansfield) as well as other settings (Villa Redeemer Retreat House) to have a sacramental sense of being cared for and feeling "at home." Meals could be nothing more than routines that punctuated the day or they could be occasions for encounter, fellowship and gratitude. Sr. Thadine did whatever was in her power to guarantee the latter. Quiet efficiency, well-timed organization, impeccable environmental standards and the ability to work culinary miracles with little more than the basics were just a few of the Sr. Thadine's many gifts.

Licensed by the State of Illinois and certified by the National Institute for the Foodservice Industry, Sr. Thadine also was recognized with first place awards for excellence and innovation at the National Restaurant Food Show held at McCormick Place in Chicago.

As Sr. Thadine's life unfolded, new opportunities for caring for the People of God emerged. From 1989 to 2012, she engaged in the ministry of Home Services and Elder Care. For 14 years, she served in the Joliet area and then, in the company of her dear friend, Sr. Clare Wand, she served for nine years in Quincy, Illinois. During these years, Sr. Thadine provided invaluable assistance to senior citizens and enabled them to remain in the comfort of their own homes and apartments. With a compassionate heart and listening ear, she sensitively attended to their hopes and anxieties. Oftentimes, she made herself available to be with her beloved elders as they were dying, assuring them of God's love and offering consolation to their families. In 2012, Sr. Thadine returned to Joliet, along

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March 30, 1939—February 10, 2023

with Sr. Clare, whose declining physical health necessitated a move to Our Lady of Angels. After a brief time of transition, Sr. Thadine began volunteering at Our Lady of Angels, where she offered assistance and companionship to Sr. Clare as well as other sisters and lay residents, and also devoted herself to the ministry of prayer, especially during COVID and its aftermath.

In 2021, as Sr. Thadine faced serious health concerns of her own, she moved to Our Lady of Angels where she resided until January of 2023. In the midst of her suffering, with confidence in God and the love of her Sisters, family and friends, she was sustained by their support as she transitioned

from Our Lady of Angels to Heritage Woods to Ascension Villa Franciscan Place. Along the way, following the example of St. Francis, she readied herself for the coming of Sister Death and her final transition to eternal life.

In a life devoted to service and holistic care for others, our Sister Thadine came to embody one of her favorite quotations of St. Francis: *"For what else are God's servants but His minstrels whose work it is to lift up people's hearts."* With deep gratitude to God, we give thanks for the life of Sr. Thadine, for the way she lifted our hearts, for her generous self-giving and for her confidence in the belief that with God, nothing is impossible. Alleluia! Alleluia.

<i>Born:</i>	March 30, 1939
<i>Parents:</i>	James Kaminski and Stella Kopczyk
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 8, 1956
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 13, 1957
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1959
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 13, 1964
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	February 10, 2023

Ministry History

1959-1960	Cook: St. Francis Convent, St. John the Baptist, College of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois
1960-1961	Domestic Work: St. Clement, Chicago, Illinois
1961-1963	Domestic Work/Kitchen: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois
1963-1964	Domestic Work: Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago and College of St. Francis, Joliet
1963-1964	Domestic Work: Guardian Angel Home, Joliet
1965-1967	Domestic Work: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
1967-1968	Domestic Work: St. Francis Academy, Joliet/St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio
1968-1973	Domestic Work: St. Peter, St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio
1973-1975	Student Food Service: Joliet Junior College, Joliet
1975-1978	Food Service: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
1979-1980	Supervisor Food Production: Villa Redeemer Retreat House, Glenview, Illinois
1980-1981	Chief Cook: Oakton Pavilion, Des Plaines, Illinois
1981-1983	Food Manager: Conception Co., Clarendon Hills, Illinois
1983-1988	Food Manager: Conception Co. (Motherhouse), Joliet
1988-1989	Sabbatical
1989-1996	Domestic Service: Private Homes, Joliet
1996-2003	Domestic Service: Private Homes, Joliet, Lockport, Lisle, Naperville
2003-2012	Domestic Service: Private Homes, Quincy, Illinois
2012-2013	In Transition
2013-2018	Volunteer, Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
2018-2023	Volunteer/Ministry of Prayer, Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 344, Grave 12, Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents, James Kaminski and Stella Kopczyk; her brothers, Richard Wagner, Joseph Wagner, John Kaminski; her sisters, Dorothy Wagner, Louise Wagner, and Lorraine McCann
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her brother, Donald (Toni) Wagner of Plymouth Minnesota; her niece Connie (Dan) Schroedl; her nephew, Michael (Chris) Wagner; her cousin, Susan Kopczyk, and many extended family members

Rest in Peace, Sister Thadine!