

# *Sisters of St. Francis*

of Mary Immaculate

On the evening of March 26, 2023, in the company of loved ones, our sister, Lucille Adelman, was led peacefully from this life into paradise. As a hope-filled healer, a gifted comforter and a courageous advocate over the course of her ninety-six years, we can imagine that among the angels who came to carry Lucy home to God, the Archangel Raphael, most certainly took the lead.

In the summer of 1926, Agnes (Brankey) and Harry Adelman welcomed into the world of Lockport, Illinois, a precious infant daughter whom they named Lucille Agnes. As a family, the Adelmans belonged to St. John the Baptist Parish in Joliet, Illinois, where they were welcomed by the Franciscan Friars. It was at St. John's that Lucy and her sister, Evelyn Rose, received the sacraments of Christian Initiation as well as a Catholic elementary school education provided by the Sisters of Saint Francis of Mary Immaculate. During her adolescent years, Lucy continued to come under the influence and inspiration of many Joliet Franciscan sisters who were her teachers and mentors at St. Francis Academy and later at the College of Saint Francis. As a student, Lucy's abilities in Mathematics and Science were noteworthy as was her natural talent for music that found expression in her beloved instrument, the accordion. However, there was much more to the young Lucy Adelman than these particular talents and gifts. Generous, kind, intuitive, undaunted, compassionate and attentive to God's holy manner working in her life, Lucy's Franciscan heart was enkindled with love for the God who called her by name.

In August of 1947, Lucy applied for admission to the Congregation, summarizing her motives with simplicity and precision: "To learn to love God more and teach others to love Him, too." On August 12, 1948, Lucy was received into the Novitiate and given the name of Sister Mary Albertus and entrusted to the patron saint of scientists, St. Albert the Great. Holding fast to her original motives, she added to them: to know and love Mary ever more deeply and help others to do the same. Sr. Albertus made her first profession of vows in August of 1950 and her final profession in 1953.

Sent out on mission in the fall of 1950, Sr. Albertus would spend the next ten years teaching Mathematics, Chemistry and Religion to hundreds of young women at St. Francis Academy. In 1960, Sr. Albertus, having lived much of her life in Joliet, was missioned to do more of the same in Ohio where she would spend the next thirteen years educating

# Alleluia!



*Sister Lucille Adelman, OSF*

both young women and young men at St. Mary's High School and Bishop Ready High School in Columbus. During those years of teaching, as an inquiring mind and lifelong learner, Sr. Albertus also completed a Master of Science degree at the University of Notre Dame.

In the wake of the Vatican II reform and renewal of religious life, returning to her baptismal name, Sr. Lucy experienced a new movement of the Spirit in her life and began discerning how she might steward her many gifts in new ways. She saw the role of women religious "growing and evolving" and perceived the need "to become fully alive to the needs of persons in order to bring Christ to the world." A quotation from Florence Nightengale provides a context for understanding what happened next: "*The best nurses have the essential qualifications before they go to school.*" And so it was true for Sr. Lucy. In 1973, she made her way to Case Western University in Cleveland. In a span of three years she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. During her fourth year she worked as a registered nurse at the University Hospital.

In the fall of 1977, a new chapter in Sr. Lucy's life began to unfold in expected and unexpected ways. She started out as a registered nurse at Our Lady of Angels. However, within a year, Sr. Lucy found herself in the role of Director of Nursing Services. And so, with a metaphorical lamp in hand, She began her years of health care ministry with Joliet-based Community Home Health Services and Franciscan Home Health Services from 1984 to 1988. Holding fast to a vision of innovation in public health care, Sr. Lucy emerged as the director of Will/Grundy Medical Center from 1988 to 1996 as care for the poor and those living with HIV/AIDS demanded fearlessness and unrelenting advocacy for those on the margins.

# *Sister Lucille Adelman, OSF*

*July 10, 1926—March 26, 2023*

In the fall of 1996, attentive to the movement of the Spirit, Sr. Lucy took part in a year long program in Clinical Pastoral Education leading to certification as a chaplain. For the next two years, she devoted herself to hospice chaplaincy with Joliet Area Community Hospice. In 1999, Sr. Lucy returned to Our Lady of Angels as Director of Pastoral Care and in the years that followed continued to be involved in pastoral care and social services at Our Lady of Angels. In 2009 she volunteered as a Mathematic tutor for at-risk youth at the Dollard Harris Education Center of Guardian Angel Community Services.

In 2011, Sr. Lucy made the decision to become a resident at Our Lady of Angels. With the anticipated closure of Our

Lady of Angels in February of 2023, Sr. Lucy moved to Assisted Living at Heritage Woods in Minooka. As her medical needs increased, she moved to Ascension Villa Franciscan Place, where in her final days, the care and compassion that she gave so tenderly and generously to others, was given to her.

The recipient of countless awards for exemplary service as leader, peacemaker, health care innovator and advocate for the poorest of the poor, indeed is our very own “Lady with a Lamp.” May the light of God that Lucy brought to so many continue to shine in all those whom she mentored, befriended, healed, and consoled. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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| <i>Born:</i>             | July 10, 1926                   |
| <i>Parents:</i>          | Harry Adelman and Agnes Brankey |
| <i>Postulancy:</i>       | September 2, 1947               |
| <i>Novitiate:</i>        | August 12, 1948                 |
| <i>First Profession:</i> | August 12, 1950                 |
| <i>Final Profession:</i> | August 13, 1953                 |
| <i>Entered New Life:</i> | March 26, 2023                  |

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## **Ministry History**

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| 1950-1960 | Teacher: Freshman Homeroom, Algebra, Geometry, Chemistry, General Math, Sophomore Homeroom, Moderator National Honor Society, Plane Geometry, Religion II, Photo Club, Catholic Action Moderator, Yearbook, Sodality Core, Junior Homeroom, Social Action Unit, Senior Homeroom, St. Francis Academy, Joliet, Illinois |
| 1961-1963 | Teacher: Chemistry, Religion, Senior Homeroom, Algebra, Physics, Solid Geometry, Trigonometry, Mechanical Drawing, Science Club, St. Mary High School, Columbus, Ohio  |
| 1963-1973 | Teacher: Chemistry, Algebra, Physics, Vocation Prep, N.H.S. Junior Moderator, Trigonometry, Analytical Geometry, Senior Moderator, Sodality Moderator, Chairman Science Department, Science Club, Bishop Ready High School Columbus, Ohio  |
| 1973-1976 | Student: Case Western University, Cleveland, Ohio  |
| 1976-1977 | Registered Nurse: University Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio   |
| 1977-1978 | Registered Nurse: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois   |
| 1978-1984 | Director of Nursing: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  |
| 1984-1988 | Staff Nurse: Community Home Health Services, Joliet  |
| 1988-1996 | Director: Will/Grundy Medical Clinic, Joliet   |
| 1996-1997 | Continuing Professional Education  |
| 1997-1999 | Hospice Chaplain   |
| 1999-2005 | Director of Pastoral Care: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  |
| 2005-2009 | Director of Pastoral Care and Social Services: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  |
| 2009-2011 | Volunteer: GACS Dillard Harris Education Center, Joliet  |
| 2011-2023 | Ministry of Prayer and Presence with OLA residents and families, Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  |

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| <i>Interment:</i>      | Section 8, Lot 329, Grave 7B, Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois      |
| <i>Predeceased by:</i> | Her parents, Harry Adelman and Agnes Brankey, her sister, Evelyn Rose McGowan, |
| <i>Survived by:</i>    | Her devoted nieces, nephews, and many extended family members                  |

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*Rest in Peace, Sister Lucille!*