

Sister Dominic Marie Blanz, O.S.F.

Born: March 25, 1909  
Parents: John and Catherine (Kippes) Blanz  
Entered from: Sacred Heart (Engelwood), Chicago, IL  
Postulancy: February 1, 1929  
Novitiate: August 12, 1929  
Profession: August 12, 1931

Died: Friday, January 9, 1998 at approximately 7:00 p.m. at  
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

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Ministry:

1931 - 1932 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 4  
1932 - 1937 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grades 4, 5  
1937 - 1943 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Grades 5, 6, 7, 8  
1943 - 1945 Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet, IL, Grade 8  
1945 - 1946 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 8  
1946 - 1950 St. Michael, Worthington, OH, Founding Principal, Grades 4,5,6  
1950 - 1951 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Principal, Grade 8  
1951 - 1957 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Principal, Grade 8  
1957 - 1958 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Assistant Principal, Grade 8  
1958 - 1962 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Grade 8  
1962 - 1963 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 8  
1963 - 1964 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Grade 8  
1964 - 1966 Sacred Heart (Englewood), Chicago, IL, Grades 7-8  
1966 - 1967 Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet, IL, Grade 8  
1967 - 1974 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 8  
1974 - 1986 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Administrative Assistant  
1986 - 1998 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL Monday, January 12, 1998  
2-7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
Monday, January 12, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Tuesday, January 13, 1998 leaving Our Lady of Angels at  
9:30 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8-L339-G4

Survived by: her brother Vincent (Betty) Blanz, Chicago, IL, and nieces,  
nephews and cousins

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

Sister Dominic Marie Blanz was born in Chicago, Illinois on March 25, 1909 to John and Catherine Kippes Blanz. She was baptized at St. Aloysius Church and given the name Annette Catherine Mary. When she was a young child, her family, which included her two brothers John and Vincent, moved to a new residence on South May Street just one block from Sacred Heart Church in the Englewood neighborhood. Following her graduation from Sacred Heart Grammar School, Annette attended two years of commercial school.

On February 1, 1929, just one month before her 20th birthday, Annette came to Joliet to join the Franciscan Sisters as a postulant. It is interesting to note that after examining her eyes, her optometrist, Dr. Latchford, wrote a report to confirm the health of his young patient's eyes, but also wrote the following to Mother Thomasine, "Allow me to congratulate the Franciscan Order upon their new postulant, Miss Blanz and it is my profound prayer that she will be graced with an abundance of perseverance." Upon receiving the habit as a novice the following August, Annette was given the name of Sister Dominic Marie.

Following her first profession of vows on August 12, 1931, Sister Dominic Marie began an energetic ministry of elementary education at St. Peter's School in Mansfield, Ohio. Her ministry continued at St. Mary's, St. Mary Magdalene, and Corpus Christi Schools in Columbus. In 1946, Sister Dominic Marie pioneered the opening of St. Michael School in Worthington, Ohio, in a Quonset hut on the parish grounds, teaching 49 fourth, fifth and sixth graders and serving as principal. Sister Dominic Marie also taught in Chicago and Joliet, returning to her home parish of Sacred Heart for two years.

Sister Dominic Marie continued to use the secretarial skills she had learned as a young girl as she volunteered time during several summers at the College of St. Francis, helping Sister Mildred who was then the Registrar. Her last twelve years of active ministry were spent at Guardian Angel Home in Joliet, where she served under four consecutive executive directors as secretary and administrative assistant. The plaque presented her by Guardian Angel Home, when she retired from there in 1986, was proudly displayed on her bedroom wall.

Following a stroke in early fall of 1986, Sister Dominic Marie wrote to Kathleen Rossman, OSF, to thank her for all the help she was receiving as a resident of Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. In this letter, she wrote, "I've been able to walk and use my hand to some extent. It is only when we are deprived of the use of our hands and feet and speech, that we realize what a great gift is our wholeness of mind and body. I hope and pray that the stroke which has ravaged my body may now be the 'stroke' of His Sacred Hand in my mind, body and spirit." The effects of that stroke continued to take their toll. Sister Dominic Marie's condition worsened, especially in these last months. On the evening of January 9, 1998, Sister Dominic Marie returned her soul to the hands of her loving God.

Sister Dominic Marie, we thank you for your gift of life shared so generously with us. We ask you to pray now for us, your Franciscan Sisters, your family, friends, students and all those served by Guardian Angel Home. Pray that the hand of God may reach out to welcome you to live forever in God's loving presence. Amen. Alleluia.

