



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

After a lifetime of beginning her day in the wee hours of the morning, long before those for whom she cared were up and moving, it came as no surprise that our Sister, Julie Ann, should respond to God's eternal call at 3:30 a.m. And so it was that on August 12, 2015, the anniversary date of her three religious commitments and the former feast of St. Clare, she peacefully embodied her final "here I am," and passed quietly and securely into eternal life, tenderly comforted by her faithful companions and surrounded by a circle of love.

A Nebraska native, Julie Ann was born to Bertha (Biermann) and Phillip Borer on March 1, 1926. One of twelve children, she grew up amidst the many joys and challenges of family life in rural America. She loved the land and the wonders of creation. From an early age, she learned that the fruits of every harvest are the result of equal measures of hard work, humor, patience, sacrifice, prayer and blessing. Inspired by the Gospel witness of others and nurtured in faith by relatives, friends and neighbors, Julie Ann was drawn to religious life and affirmed in her vocational choice by the parish community of St. John the Baptist. As World War II came to an end, she followed the call to become a Franciscan. Making the journey from Petersburg, Nebraska, to Joliet, Illinois, she became the next candidate in a long line of Nebraska vocations tracing back to the 1870s.

On September 4, 1945, Julie Ann entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate as a postulant at the age of nineteen. A year later, on August 12, 1946, she was received into the novitiate and given the religious name Sr. Bertha Ann. By her own account, she made repeated appeals to Reverend Mother Thomasine, begging for permission to cook rather than to teach. Finally, Sr. Bertha Ann's wish was granted. Professing her first vows on August 12, 1948, she was missioned to be the cook and housekeeper at Our Lady of Mercy in Granville, Ohio, a special ministry that the congregation had assumed to care for vulnerable and at risk girls.

Professing her final vows on August 12, 1951, Sr. Julie Ann continued to find satisfaction in caring for the everyday needs of her sisters at various missions in Ohio and Illinois. With wisdom and understanding, she observed the ebb and flow of community life and ministry. Intuitively, she knew the restorative powers of freshly baked breads and other culinary delights! She was committed to finding and providing the essentials

Alleluia!



Sister Julie Ann Borer, OSF

that gave a convent residence the feeling of home. When it came to mentoring others in the arts of cooking, baking, home-making and care-giving, Sr. Julie Ann took a down-to-earth, common sense approach to providing for the needs of those entrusted to her care. In the mid-1970s, after pursuing studies in culinary arts, she was missioned to Nebraska to carry on her ministries of service in a variety of institutional settings. This move also afforded her the opportunity to provide home health care for her mother as well as other elders in need of assistance and companionship.

Inclined to preach the Gospel more by example than by words, Sr. Julie Ann valued good stewardship, reliability, purposefulness and simplicity. Any ministry worth doing was worth doing well and without delay or pretentiousness. In her well-worn book of personal recipes, she devoted the first three pages to several points of practical wisdom that delineated her special recipe for living religious life. It began with the words: "Risk comes with the territory." Always and forever a farmer's daughter, Sr. Julie Ann intimately knew that to plant a seed always involved taking a chance on life - with all of its vulnerability *and* resiliency. Perhaps, for this reason she was particularly skilled when it came to offering the weary and discouraged a message of hope: "Remember that you are okay ... and on your way to being even better."

A cornhusker through and through, Sr. Julie Ann had an enduring affection for the heartland she called home - and for her favorite Nebraska teams. Similarly, as a Joliet Franciscan, she had a deep love for the community of Sisters she called her own and an unwavering commitment "to serving God and serving good food." As a disciple of Jesus and a baker of bread, she created the conditions for others to become companions on the journey and, in the process, to discover the sacred and enduring connection between daily bread and the Bread of Life. With gratitude and joy for Sr. Julie Ann's life and legacy, we say: "Alleluia, Alleluia."

Sister Julie Ann Borer, OSF

March 1, 1926 — August 12, 2015

<i>Born:</i>	March 1, 1926
<i>Parents:</i>	Phillip Borer and Bertha (Beirmann) Borer
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 4, 1945
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1946
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1948
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 12, 1951
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	August 12, 2015

Ministry History

1948-1954	Domestic Work, Kitchen: Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, Ohio
1954-1958	Kitchen Work: St. Francis Convent, Joliet, Illinois
1958-1959	Domestic Work: St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio
1959-1962	Kitchen Work: St. Francis Convent, Joliet
1962-1964	Kitchen Work: College of St. Francis, Joliet
1964-1966	Domestic Work: St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, Illinois
1966-1967	Domestic Work: Guardian Angel Home, Joliet
1967-1968	Domestic Work: St. Francis Academy, Joliet
1968-1972	Domestic Work: SS Peter and Paul, Chicago
1972-1974	Student and Kitchen Assistant: Joliet Jr. College, Joliet
1974-1976	Director of Food Service: Motherhouse, Joliet
1976-1977	Health Care: Our Lady of Lourdes, Norfolk, Nebraska
1978-1986	Director of Food Service: Oblate House of Studies, Omaha, Nebraska
1987-1991	Family Ministry: Mother's home, Petersburg, Nebraska
1991-1992	Care of the Elderly: Residence, Albion, Nebraska
1992-1993	Live-in Assistant: Residence, Humphrey, Nebraska
1993-1995	Live-in Assistant: Residence, Albion, Nebraska
1995-1997	Live-in Assistant: Residence, Humphrey, Nebraska
1997-2001	Live-in Caretaker: Mary Weeder's home, Humphrey, Nebraska
2001-2003	Special Ministry: West Acres, Joliet
2003-2015	Community Service: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet

<i>Wake:</i>	Wednesday, August 19, 2015, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Wednesday, August 19, 2015, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Wednesday, August 19, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Thursday, August 20, 2015, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 360, Grave 10, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	By her parents, Phillip Borer and Bertha (Beirmann) Borer, her brothers Ralph, Maurice, Richard, Ervin (Mary Ann) Borer and Francis; and her sister Dolores Kuhlman
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her sisters Rose Marie Nelson, Lucille (Bernard) Kuhlman; her brothers Elmer (Rita) Borer, Gerald (Susan) Borer and Harold (Arlene) Borer

Rest in Peace, Sister Julie Ann!