

# Alleluia!

*Sister Cecile Marie Bredar, OSF*



Born September 7, 1906 in Rock Island, Illinois to Nicholas and Elizabeth Wirig Bredar, Sister Cecile Marie Bredar was baptized Katherine Johanna at St. Mary's Church. Katherine was the 13<sup>th</sup> of 14 children. She had eight brothers, Herman, Lorenz, John, Joseph, Aloysius, Nicholas, Francis, and Edward and five sisters, Maggie, Martha, Elizabeth, Marie and Margaret. All preceded her in death. Her cousin is our deceased Sister Seraphine Decker.

Katherine attended St. Mary's Elementary School and St. Joseph High School prior to entering the Congregation on February 15, 1927, the day after her father's funeral. On August 12, 1927, she began the novitiate and was given the name Sister Cecile Marie.

After first profession of vows on August 12, 1929, Sister Cecile Marie began her 57 years in the ministry of music education. During these years she taught classroom music, was organist and choir director, gave private music lessons in piano, organ and voice, and composed music. She ministered in various parishes and schools in Illinois and Ohio, including seven years at Corpus Christi in Columbus, Ohio; six years at St. Bernard's in Joliet; five years at St. Ludmilla's in Chicago and eight years at her home parish of St. Mary's in Rock Island. The last three years at St. Mary's she was considered semi-retired and served as receptionist, organist, sacristan and taught CCD.

Because she wrote about them in our Congregation's collection of stories entitled [A Patchwork Quilt](#), we know that two of Sister Cecile Marie's favorite places of ministry were Our Lady of Mercy in Granville, Ohio, where she spent nine years and Marybrook Academy in Maumee, Ohio where she ministered for ten years. In both of these places, she was one of the Sisters who began that mission and in each she pioneered the music program. At Marybrook she was also a group mother and stayed

in contact with several of the girls, including her good friend, our former Sister Michelle, Dawn Woityna.

In 1980, with her cousin Loretta Bredar, Sister Cecile Marie visited France, the birthplace of her parents, and Germany. There she spent time with her relatives and kept a daily journal which became her Christmas greeting card that year.

In 1984, Sister Cecile Marie retired to the Motherhouse where she continued to give music lessons. She moved to Our Lady of Angels in 1987, where she spent her days in prayer and making rosaries for the missions. These last few months her body became more frail. On the morning of Friday, March 30, 2001, as she was being attended to by the staff, she peacefully and quietly ended her earthly journey.

Sister Cecile Marie loved to collect favorite prayers, poems and retreat notes, which she must have used in her daily prayers. She also loved our Congregation and kept a book, in her own handwriting, called "Community Classes", where she listed each class and even marked who had died and who had left the Congregation.

Sister Cecile Marie, we thank you for sharing your life, your music, your time with us these 74 years. As you begin your eternal life praising the God you served so faithfully, remember us your family, your friends, your Franciscan sisters. Amen! Alleluia!

**Sister Cecile Marie Bredar, OSF**  
**7 September 1906 - 30 March 2001**

*Born:* September 7, 1906, Rock Island, Illinois  
*Parents:* Nicholas and Elizabeth (Wirig) Bredar  
*Entered From:* St. Mary, Rock Island, Illinois  
*Postulancy:* February 15, 1927  
*Novitiate:* August 12, 1927  
*Profession:* August 12, 1929  
*Entered New Life:* Friday, March 30, 2001, at Our Lady of Angels at 7:47 a.m.

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**Ministry History**

1929 - 1931 Music, Organist; Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH  
 1931 - 1940 Music; Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, OH  
 1940 - 1950 Music, Choir, Instrumental Instructor; Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH  
 1950 - 1951 St. John, Springfield, IL for medical care  
 1951 - 1954 Music Lessons, Choir, Organist; St. Bernard, Joliet, IL  
 1954 - 1955 Music Classes, Private Lessons, Orchestra; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL  
 1955 - 1958 Music Teacher, Organist; St. Bernard, Joliet, IL  
 1958 - 1963 Music Teacher, Organist; St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL  
 1963 - 1968 Music Teacher, Organist; Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH  
 1968 - 1971 Music Teacher, Organist; St. Matthew, Champaign, IL  
 1971 - 1972 Private Music Lessons; St. Clement, Chicago, IL  
 1972 - 1976 Private Music Lessons; St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL  
 1976 - 1981 Private Music Lessons, CCD, Organist, Sacristan; St. Mary, Rock Island, IL  
 1981 - 1984 Receptionist, Organist, Sacristan; St. Mary, Rock Island, IL  
 1984 - 1987 Music Lessons, Retired; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL  
 1987 - 2001 Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

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*Wake:* Monday, April 2, 2001, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Wake Service:* Monday, April 2, 2001, 5:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Mass of Christian Burial:* Monday, April 2, 2001, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Burial:* Tuesday, April 3, 2001; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.  
 to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL  
*Interment* S8 - L344 - G6

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*Survived by:* Nieces and Nephews.

**Rest in Peace, Sister Cecile Marie**