

Alleluia!

Sister Mary Emilita Chuba, OSF



Sister Emilita Chuba was born on February 14, 1911 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania to George and Teresa Rebar Chuba. Baptized Teresa Cecilia at St. Stephen Church, she was the ninth of thirteen children. She was preceded in death by her sisters, Mary, Susan, Ann and Catherine and her brothers, Andrew, Stephen, Joseph and George. Emilita is survived by her brother Val and her sisters Elizabeth, Clara and Margaret.

Teresa attended St. Stephen Grade School, and as she wrote in *A Patchwork Quilt*, "Since many of my older sisters were already married and living away from home, it fell to me to be my mother's helper in raising the last four children. I had to leave school early so that I could work at home, and I loved helping my mother with the laundry, cleaning, cooking, caring for the younger children." However, when she was 16 she came to Joliet and entered the Postulancy on November 26, 1927. She called herself "the adventurous one" because she ventured so far from Johnstown while the rest of her family stayed in the area. On August 12, 1928, Teresa entered the Novitiate and received the name Sister Mary Emilita. Her novice directress described her as cheerful, humble and a hard worker who always did good work in the bakery and kitchen. So, after profession of vows on August 12, 1930, Sister Emilita began her 51 years in the Homemaking/Food Service ministry.

Sister Emilita ministered in various places in Illinois including 5 years at St. Joseph, Elgin, 12 years at St. Francis Convent, Joliet and 20 years at the University of St. Francis, Joliet. The last four years of her active ministry were spent at All Saints Interparochial School, Wickliffe, Ohio. "It's quite different!" she once stated, as she met the "little people" in the cafeteria, different because she spent most of her life serving her sisters and other adults.

When once asked what was most rewarding for her, Sister Emilita said that her "most rewarding

thing was to see the Sisters enjoying the food she prepared." Though she once said that most of her knowledge in cooking came from observing others, Sister Emilita did attend professional workshops and restaurant food shows. She found these opportunities exciting and she enjoyed learning all that was new in her field.

In 1982 Sister Emilita retired to the Motherhouse and in 1985 she moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. At both places she kept busy helping others, crocheting and making special treats such as homemade applesauce. She also took very good care of her dear friend, our deceased Sister Dora.

About six months ago Sister Emilita was found to be suffering with lung cancer. After a short stay in the hospital, she chose to stop all treatment. Though getting weaker, she always greeted everyone with a smile and always expressed gratitude for all that was done for her. It was in the early morning hours of Sunday, June 23, 2002, that Sister Emilita quietly went home to her God.

Sister Emilita, we thank you for sharing your love and talents with us these 74 years. In 1932, when asking to renew your vows, you wrote to Mother Thomasine, "I promise with the help of Almighty God to be a faithful follower of St. Francis." Your life has shown us how you lived out that promise. As you begin your eternity with your faithful God, in the company of St. Francis, remember us, your family, your friends, and your Franciscan Sisters. Amen! Alleluia!

Sister Mary Emilita Chuba, OSF
14 February 1911 - 23 June 2002

Born: February 14, 1911; Johnstown Pennsylvania 822
Parents: George and Teresa (Rebar) Chuba
Entered From: St. Stephen Parish, Johnstown, Pennsylvania
Postulancy: November 26, 1927
Novitiate: August 12, 1928
Profession: August 12, 1930
Entered New Life: Sunday, June 23, 2002, at Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL at 2:00 a.m.

Ministry History

1930 - 1932 Domestic Work; SS Peter and Paul, Leonore, IL
1932 - 1935 Domestic Work; St. Joseph, Joliet, IL
1935 - 1940 Domestic Work; St. Joseph, Elgin, IL
1940 - 1942 Domestic Work; St. Stephen, Streator, IL
1942 - 1962 Domestic Work; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1962 - 1970 Domestic Work; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
1970 - 1974 Food Service; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
1974 - 1977 Food Service; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1977 - 1981 Food Service; All Saints Inter-Parochial, Wickliffe, OH
1981 - 1982 Retired; Borromeo Convent, Wickliffe, OH
1982 - 1985 Retired; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
1985 - 2002 Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Wake: Thursday, June 27, 2002, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Wake Service: Thursday, June 27, 2002, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, June 27, 2002, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Burial: Friday, June 28, 2002; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.
to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL

Interment S8 - L334 - G9

Survived by: Brother Val (Marilyn) Chuba, and sisters Betty Peterchack, Clara Kwanta and Margaret Chorba, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Rest in Peace, Sister Emilita