

# Alleluia!

## Sister Agnes Eichholz, OSF



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Sister Agnes Eichholz was born on February 24, 1915, in Mary's Home, Missouri. She was the oldest of the three daughters of Herman and Frances Sickmann Eichholz. Agnes is survived by her sisters Clara and Mildred.

On November 13, 1934, Agnes entered the Postulancy. August 12, 1935, she was received into the Novitiate and given the name Sister Mary Arsenia. After Vatican II, she returned to her baptismal name of Agnes. She professed vows on August 12, 1937.

During her postulancy and novitiate, she completed her high school education and graduated from St. Francis Academy, Joliet. After profession of vows, Agnes spent the next three years at the College of St. Francis where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics. Later she earned a Master of Science degree in Mathematics from DePaul University, Chicago. She also furthered her education through grants, especially from the National Science Foundation. These grants enabled her to study physics, chemistry, math and computer science at St. Louis University, Case Institute of Technology, Ohio State University, Illinois Institute of Technology and St. Mary's College in Winona, MN.

In 1940, Agnes began her 57 years as an educator, teaching mathematics, chemistry, physics, computer science and photography at various high schools and at the College of St. Francis and Joliet Junior College. This included 11 years at St. Mary's High School, Columbus, Ohio; 11 years at Joliet Catholic High School; and a total of 21 years at St. Francis Academy, Joliet.

While continuing to teach part time, Agnes began her ministry as programmer and data processor in the Congregation's Business Office in 1986. She worked there for six years and served as consultant to the Business and Development offices for the next three years. During this time she also began tutoring students of all ages in mathematics.

Sister Agnes loved being a teacher. In 1997 she wrote in *A Patchwork Quilt*,

"Teaching has always been for me a joy, never a chore. Teaching math arouses in me the same feeling that golf inspires in Tiger Woods, basketball in Michael Jordan, ice skating in Scott Hamilton."

Earlier she had written that one of the highlights of her life had been her years of teaching, "Every day has been so rewarding that I often have said, 'What can God possibly have as a reward for me in heaven when I received so much here on earth already.'"

Though teaching was her first love, Agnes had many other interests. She was an accomplished photographer, seamstress and baker. She liked to knit and crochet, to read and watch sports. Her favorite hobby was fishing, which she first learned from her father. She loved going to the Lake of the Ozarks in the spring of each year, and once wrote, "When I am out on the lake I couldn't get closer to God. It is like a retreat for me." Agnes always gave all of herself to whatever task she attempted. She was truly a lover of life.

The last few years Agnes' health failed. She suffered with heart disease and diabetes. Probably the hardest for her to bear was her declining eyesight. In 2001, when she needed more care, Agnes moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. It was there on the early morning of Sunday, October 19, that Agnes quietly and peacefully went home to her God.

Sister Agnes, we thank you for the 68 years you shared with us as sister, teacher, lover of life and friend. As you begin eternity with the God you served so lovingly and faithfully, remember us, your family, your friends, your Franciscan Sisters.

Amen! Alleluia!

**Sister Agnes Eichholz, OSF**  
**24 February 1915 - 19 October 2003**

*Born:* February 24, 1915; Washington, MO  
*Parents:* Herman and Frances (Sickmann) Eichholz  
*Entered From:* St. Francis Borgia Parish, Washington, MO  
*Postulancy:* November 13, 1934  
*Novitiate:* August 12, 1935  
*Profession:* August 12, 1937  
*Entered New Life:* Sunday, October 19, 2003; Our Lady of Angels at 3:00 a.m.

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**Ministry History**

1937 - 1940 Student; College of St. Francis, Joliet IL  
1940 - 1946 Teacher; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL  
1946 - 1957 Teacher; St. Mary High School, Columbus, OH  
1957 - 1961 Teacher; St. Peter High School, Mansfield, OH  
1961 - 1972 Teacher; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL  
1972 - 1973 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL  
1973 - 1983 Teacher; Joliet Catholic High School, Joliet, IL  
1979 - 1983 Teacher; Joliet Junior College, Joliet, IL  
1983 - 1986 Motherhouse Business Office Data Processor & Teacher; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL  
1986 - 1990 Motherhouse Business Office/PT Teacher; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL  
1990 - 1992 Motherhouse Business Office/Tutor; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL  
1992 - 1995 Consultant to Business Office & Development/Tutor; St. Francis Convent  
1995 - 2001 Math Tutor; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL  
2001 - 2003 Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

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*Wake:* Thursday, October 23, 2003, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Wake Service:* Thursday, October 23, 2003, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Mass of Christian Burial:* Thursday, October 23, 2003, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Burial:* Friday, October 24, 2003; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.  
to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL  
S8 - L333 - G2

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*Survived by:* Her sisters Clara Gross and Mildred Reiter; nieces and nephew.

**Rest in Peace, Sister Agnes**