



## *Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate*

As afternoon gave way to evening on July 29, 2015, Sister Moon was rising gently in the east as Brother Sun was setting slowly in the west. Amidst this splendor of God's wondrous creation, Sister Death awaited the final beat of the musical heart of our Sister Pauline Ann.

And so, with its closing measures, the beautiful song that was her life came to a conclusion. Though the suddenness and seeming swiftness of her earthly departure remains a mystery to the many loved ones she left behind, to know Pauline Ann is to know how firmly she believed herself to be held securely in the palm of God's hand.

Born on Sunday, June 26, 1921, Pauline Ann was welcomed into this world by her loving parents, Olga (Hermann) and Thomas Furiel. As a child, growing up on the east side of Joliet, Illinois, she was a natural when it came to being a "big sister" in a family of eight. From an early age, she was adept at the performing arts and excelled in crafts and handiwork. Nothing gave her greater joy than helping others to discover and cultivate their own God-given creative potential. As a parishioner and student at Saints Cyril & Methodius and St. Mary Magdalene, and later as a student at Providence High School and Saint Francis Academy, Pauline Ann was single-hearted about her love of God, her love of family and friends, and her love of music.

At the age of fifteen, Pauline Ann entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate as a postulant. (Little did she know at the time that, within a matter of years, her sisters Anna Marie and Verna would be joining her for the rest of their lives!). Less than fifteen minutes from home, life within the convent walls was its own reality set apart from the world. Nine months later, on August 12, 1937, she became a novice and received the name Sister Mary Isabelle. Professing her first vows on August 12, 1939, she returned to Saint Francis Academy to complete high school, and the following year she began her undergraduate studies at the College of St. Francis. To no one's surprise she majored in music and over time expanded her knowledge of history, theory, composition, conducting and performance. On August 12, 1942, she professed her final vows and set off for St.

# *Alleluia!*



*Sister Pauline Ann Furiel, OSF*

Peter Parish in Mansfield, Ohio. There she found the ministerial groove that would characterize the next six decades of her life as a Franciscan - a combination of classroom music teacher, private instructor, parish organist, choir director and a true improvisationist when it came to congregation service, food service, library service, volunteer service and a final decade of special service.

A lifelong aficionado of jazz, Sister Pauline Ann was moved and inspired by its multiple origins and forms. From ragtime to reggae, from rhythm & blues to bluegrass, from Dixieland to rock and roll, she found God's animating spirit at work in the music of diverse peoples and cultures, but more importantly, she recognized the work of the Spirit in and through their lives. Indeed, for Sister Pauline Ann, improvisation was not merely a style of playing music, but a way of living life in the midst of hopes and dreams, anxieties and struggles, expectations and disappointments, ups and downs, successes and failures, possibilities and limitations. For her, the goal of the Gospel life was not perfection, but goodness as expressed in reverence, appreciation and affection for others.

Fondly remembered by all those who were touched and influenced by her unforgettable Franciscan presence and the light-hearted flamboyance that endeared her to many, Sister Pauline Ann endeavored to embody the harmony of goodness. She never ceased to be a reminder of the words from our Constitutions that read: "Who we are as apostolic persons is as important as what we do." These were her favorite words and there is no mistaking that she lived them "heart and soul." In gratitude for the life and witness of our Sister Pauline Ann, let us sing: Alleluia! Alleluia!

# *Sister Pauline Ann Furiel, OSF*

*June 26, 1921 — July 29, 2015*

*Born:* June 26, 1921  
*Parents:* Thomas Furiel and Olga (Hermann) Furiel  
*Postulancy:* November 24, 1936  
*Novitiate:* August 12, 1937  
*First Profession:* August 12, 1939  
*Final Profession:* August 12, 1942  
*Entered New Life:* July 29, 2015

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## **Ministry History**

1939-1940 Student: St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet, Illinois  
1940-1942 Student: College of St. Francis, Joliet  
1942-1944 Private Teacher: Music; Assistant Organist, St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio  
1944-1949 Music Teacher: Grades 5 and 6; Private Music Teacher; Organist, Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, Ohio  
1949-1950 Music Teacher: Grades 3, 4 and 5; Organist, St. Mary, Rock Island, Illinois  
1950-1958 Music Teacher: Grades 5 and 6; Organist, Sacred Heart, Chicago, Illinois  
1958-1959 Music Appreciation, Glee Club, Choir, Organist: St. Procop; Diocesan Music Consultant, Cleveland, Ohio  
1959-1960 Teacher, Organist, Private Lessons, Music Appreciation Classes, Choral Club: St. Francis de Sales, Chicago  
1960-1963 Teacher, Organist, Private Lessons, Music I, II, Glee Club, Elementary Music Choristers, Boy's Choir, Music in Grade School: St. Clement, Chicago  
1963-1968 Teacher: Music Appreciation, Sophomore Chorus, Private Lessons, Sophomore Ensemble, Private Music, Glee Club, St. Francis Academy, Joliet  
1968-1969 Music Teacher: Grades 3, 4, 5, 7, 8; Organist, SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago  
1969-1971 St. Rita, Aurora, Illinois  
1971-1973 Coordinator: St. Francis Convent, Joliet  
1973-1977 Music Teacher: St. Jude and St. Joseph, Joliet  
1977-1978 Food Service: Sacred Heart, Chicago  
1978-1984 Music Teacher, Librarian: Sacred Heart, Chicago  
1984-1993 Music Teacher, Librarian: Annunciata, Chicago  
1993-1994 Music Teacher: Annunciata, Chicago  
1995-1996 Volunteer: Nazareth House, Chicago; Organist: St. Mary's Church, East Chicago  
1996-2004 Organist: St. Mary's Church and St. John Cansius, East Chicago, Indiana  
2004-2011 Special Ministry  
2011-2015 Music Ministry, Community Service: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home

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*Wake:* Wednesday, August 5, 2015, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Prayer Service:* Wednesday, August 5, 2015, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Mass of Christian Burial:* Wednesday, August 5, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Burial:* Thursday, August 6, 2015, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 8:30 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois  
*Interment:* Section 8, Lot 362, Grave 9, Resurrection Cemetery  
*Predeceased by:* By her parents, Thomas Furiel and Olga (Hermann) Furiel, her brothers, Louis (Dixie Margaret) Sedivy; her sisters, Sr. Anne Marie Furiel, Sr. Verna Furiel, Theresa (Michael) Krutsch, Mary (Robert) Paul, Rosalie Furiel  
*Survived by:* Her sister Olga (Edward) Mastesevic, nieces and nephews

*Rest in Peace, Sister Pauline Ann!*