

Alleluia!

Sister M. Christian Gilgen, O.S.F.



Sister Christian Gilgen was born to Ruth (Manheim) and Charles Gilgen in Chicago, Illinois on July 31, 1930. She was baptized Lois Ruth at St. Boniface Church on August 10th of this same year. She is survived by two sisters, Audrey and Patricia, brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews, a dear friend Yvonne as well as many sisters in our congregation.

After attending Mokena and New Lenox public grade schools and St. Francis Academy, Lois entered the congregation on September 5, 1949. At her novitiate ceremony on August 12, 1950, Lois received the name Sister Christian, the name she kept throughout her religious life. Christian was the name of her godfather. Sister Christian's education continued. She received a B.A. degree from the College of St. Francis and an L.P.N. certificate.

Her early career encompassed 12 years of teaching grade school and music lessons in Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan. After completing her licensed practical nursing certificate in 1966, Sister Christian began living and ministering at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home and remained in this ministry for 40 years. During some of this time, Sister worked part-time at the Motherhouse also. We knew her as a dedicated, hard working, generous caregiver, one who cared much about the sisters at OLA to whom she ministered. Sister Christian was often seen working overtime, taking on extra shifts, or filling in when another worker did not appear as scheduled. She spent a lot of time at OLA helping wherever she could. There was a fun side also to Sister Christian. How she looked forward to those vacations with her sisters, Audrey and Patricia. She told of her stories fishing and doing other

fun things. Gardening also was a healing and enjoyable task for Sister Christian. She worked long and hard on her garden paths here at OLA and was thrilled to see the progress her flowers were making. Needle-work and other craft projects filled her free time as well.

Over the years, many of her superiors or employers commented on her earnest, prompt, dependable, trustworthy and helpful demeanor. This was evident as one worked side by side with her or observed her in her many tasks. It was also said that she was outspoken, bold, and deliberate in her actions. We saw this too. Sister Christian had all these qualities rolled into one. And that is why she is so memorable. If one came to OLA, Sister Christian was present, quietly doing what was hers to do, whether it was praying, nursing, keeping the medical records, tending to the garden, or playing the organ. She was a private person who worked in a quiet way serving the God that she loved so dearly. And when she went home to her God on Friday, July 15th, just 16 days before her 75th birthday, I am sure she smiled and was greeted warmly by a smiling, loving God.

Sister Christian, we will remember you and pray with and for you as you enjoy an eternity at the home of our generous God. We join our sisters, your relatives and friends as we thank God for you, for all that you taught us and shared with us. Amen. Alleluia.

Sister M. Christian Gilgen, OSF
31 July 1930 — 15 July 2005

Born: July 31, 1930
Parents: Charles A. and Ruth A. (Manheim) Gilgen
Entered From: St. Jude's Church, New Lenox, IL
Postulancy: September 5, 1949
Novitiate: August 12, 1950
Profession: August 12, 1952
Entered New Life: Friday, July 15, 2005, at Our Lady of Angels at 12:50 p.m.

Ministry History

1952-1956 Teacher: Grade 4, Music Instructor; St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH
1956-1957 Teacher: Grade 4, Music Instructor, Organist;
Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH
1957-1959 Teacher: Grades 4, 5; Music Instructor, Organist; St. Michael, Brunswick, MI
1959-1963 Teacher: Grades 1, 2, 3, Organist; SS. Peter and Paul, Leonore, IL
1963-1964 Teacher: Grade 2; St. John, Joliet, IL
1964-1965 Infirmarian: Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL
1965-1966 Practical Nursing Course
1966-1967 Practical Nurse; Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
1967-1978 Licensed Practical Nurse; Our Lady of Angels
1978-1983 Licensed Practical Nurse, Staff Nurse; Our Lady of Angels
1983-1991 Licensed Practical Nurse, Staff Nurse; Our Lady of Angels, Motherhouse
1991-1998 Licensed Practical Nurse; Our Lady of Angels
1998-2005 Medical Records; Our Lady of Angels

Wake: Tuesday, July 19, 2005, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wake Service: Tuesday, July 19, 2005, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Mass of Christian Burial
Burial Tuesday, July 19, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wednesday, July 20, 2005 leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to
Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Interment: S8-L4-G10, Resurrection Cemetery
Survived by: Her two sisters, Audry (Rudolph) Goede, Patricia (George) Etheridge;
aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews and special friends Yvonne and David Harley.

Rest in Peace, Sister Christian