



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

On the morning of August 2nd, the beloved Franciscan feast of the Portiuncula, as rain drops ceased and rays of sun broke through the passing clouds, our sister Mary Ann Glascott released her final breath and let go of the assuring hands that comforted her until her pilgrimage was completed, hands of sisters, family and friends from the United States and Brazil. Dying as she had prayed and lived, she entrusted herself at the hour of death to the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, who in the company of the Angels, led her into paradise, where the hand of God now awaited her and the voice of God spoke the words she longed to hear: "Rise, clasp my hand, and come!" (Francis Thompson, The Hound of Heaven)

Brought into the world in 1937, four days after St. Patrick's Day, Mary Ann was the third of eight children born to Lawrence Glascott and Mary O'Malley. As the lone daughter in the midst of seven sons, she was the apple of her father's eye and her mother's saving grace. Overwhelmingly outnumbered by "the brothers," she soon developed an extra-ordinary set of skills for standing one's ground and getting one's way in a world of boys and men. Educated at St. Clement's on the North side of Chicago, Mary Ann met the Joliet Franciscans as a young girl and was inspired to follow the example of the Sisters who were her teachers and mentors. After graduating from grade school, she attended Immaculata High School for one year and then transferred to St. Francis Academy in Joliet where she became an aspirant, made friendships that would last a lifetime and set the course for her future as a Franciscan. At last, the Lord gave her sisters!

In 1953, Mary Ann became a postulant, thanks in part to a letter of recommendation written by Sr. Johanna Didier who stated: "She has an extraordinary sense of humor and is capable of keeping up good cheer in any group. Her exuberance, however, inclines her to be a little too boisterous." A year later, still humorous, but a bit less boisterous, she entered the Novitiate and was given the name Sister M. Lawrence. Two years later, in her request to profess first vows in August of 1956, she wrote to Mother Immaculate saying: "With the strength of the Holy Trinity, I'm striving to climb the ladder of grace that God so generously offers. To make vows is to promise to hit the top rung." And, it was precisely that commitment to striving that shaped and influenced her next fifty-seven years.

In September of 1956, Sr. Lawrence began teaching in the middle grades at St. Ann's in Lansing during the academic year. During the summers, she served as house mother to the senior boys at Guardian Angel Home, a ministry for which she was uniquely well-suited! In 1962, when the Congregation responded to the invitation of Pope John XXIII to send missionaries to Latin America, Sr. Lawrence wrote a letter to Mother Borromeo on the Vigil of Pentecost saying: "I would like to volunteer Certainly, I am far from perfect in many points but as in all things, I am trying to do God's will." Entering a pool of generous volunteers, she was among the four sisters selected to go to Brazil. Arriving in Santa Helena de Goiás in December of 1963 and later moving to Goiânia in 1975, she gave herself whole-heartedly to her missionary vocation. And so began what she described as "23 grace-filled years" as Sister, teacher, principal, religious educator, regional coordinator, religious formator, pastoral minister and animadora, years of cherished relationships and unforgettable experiences that always would hold a special place in her heart.

In 1985, Sr. Mary Ann returned to the United States for health reasons. Uncertain about her unfolding future and homesick for Brazil, she

Alleluia!



Sister Mary Ann Glascott, OSF

nonetheless committed her way to God yet again and trusted that God would act. Always devoted to prayer and to lifelong learning, she made the most of her previous studies at the College of St. Francis and the University of Notre Dame while seeking out ongoing educational opportunities through various programs, institutes and workshops. Little by little she discovered how her years in Brazil had prepared her to become a "missionary-in-reverse." From 1986 through 2011, she served as Director of Religious Education for three different parishes and as a pastoral minister and volunteer in a variety of other settings. During these years, which she also described as grace-filled, "Aunt Mary Ann" also devoted herself to caring for the special needs of an ever-expanding network of family members and friends, a dimension of life and service that kept her connected to those whom she loved so dearly and deeply.

Throughout her life, Sr. Mary Ann endeavored to hold fast to the kind of hope characteristic of Christians - and of Cub fans. She was no stranger to the ebbs and flows of consolation and desolation. The measure of her exuberant joy was matched at times by a soulful sadness. Uniting herself and her experiences to the struggles, triumphs, sufferings and resiliency of others, Sr. Mary Ann shared in the disappointments and disillusionments of broken-hearted seekers as well as the achievements and accomplishments of undaunted dreamers. She was at home in the company of those who were successful in life as well as those who found themselves on its margins. As daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, great-aunt, relative, friend, colleague, and especially as a Franciscan, Sr. Mary Ann treasured those times when she was able to go the extra mile with and for others. She also grieved the times when situations and circumstances beyond her control limited her ability to love and to serve as completely as she desired.

During the final years and months of her life, Sr. Mary Ann repeatedly defied the odds. Harnessing her energies so as to live her last days to the fullest, in recent weeks she gave new meaning to the word "rally." With contagious laughter she recounted tales from the past; with tender care she made sure that those who loved her knew how much she loved them, and with unwavering faith in God's unconditional love and mercy she entered fully, freely and fearlessly into the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Like St. Francis of Assisi, Sr. Mary Ann did what was hers to do and in parting from this life, she leaves an invitation to each of us to discover what it is that we are to do - and to be - for the sake of the Reign of God and for one another. *Obrigada por tudo, Irma Mariana. Que o Senhor conceda a Paz eterna.* (Thank you for everything, Sr. Mary Ann. May The Lord grant you eternal peace!)

Alleluia, alleluia.

Sister Mary Ann Glascott, OSF

March 21, 1937 — August 2, 2013

<i>Born:</i>	March 21, 1937
<i>Parents:</i>	Lawrence Glascott and Mary (O'Malley) Glascott
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 7, 1953
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 13, 1954
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1956
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 13, 1959
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	August 2, 2013

Ministry History

1956-1963	Teacher: Grades 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, St. Ann, Lansing, Illinois
1963-1966	Santa Helena, Brazil, South America
1966-1970	Superior: Santa Helena
1970-1972	Councilor: Santa Helena
1972	Catechetical/Pastoral Ministry, Councilor of Governing Group Brazil: Santa Helena
1973	Sabbatical/Student MA degree in Religious Education: University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana
1974	Brazil Coordinator/Catechetical Supervisor for Diocese of Jatai: Santa Helena de Goiás
1975	Brazil Coordinator: Centerhouse, San Damiano, Goiânia, Goiás, Brazil
1976-1980	Brazil Coordinator/Legal President of Corporation/Legal Treasurer of Corporation: San Damiano, Goiânia, Goiás, Brazil
1981	Governing Board/Student: Petropolis, RJ, Brazil
1982	Governing Board/Director of Formation and Promotion: Centerhouse, Goiânia, Goiás, Brazil
1983	Second Auxiliary/Director of Formation/Parish Ministry: Centerhouse, Goiânia, Our Lady of Guadalupe
1984	Second Auxiliary/Director of Formation/Parish Ministry: Centerhouse, Goiânia
1985-1986	Participant: House of Affirmation, Whitinsville, Massachusetts
1986-1987	Religious Education Director: St. Anthony, Pawtucket, Rhode Island
1987-1988	Sabbatical: Chicago, Illinois
1988-1996	Director of Religious Education: St. Bartholomew, Chicago
1996-1998	Director of Religious Education/Pastoral Associate: St. Bartholomew, Chicago
1998-2004	Director of Religious Education: St. John Brebeuf, Niles, Illinois
2005-2006	Sabbatical
2006-2007	Development Donor Relations: Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, Chicago
2007-2008	Volunteer: Congregation Office
2008-2011	Volunteer Minister of Care: Northwestern Hospital
2011-2013	Community Service: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

<i>Wake:</i>	Thursday, August 8, 2013, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Thursday, August 8, 2013, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Thursday, August 8, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Friday, August 9, 2013, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 362, Grave 11, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents and her brothers, John, Edward and Dennis.
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her brothers, Lawrence (Mary Alice) of La Canada, California, James (Jo Ann), Robert, and Timothy (Maureen) of Chicago, Sisters-in-law Mary Glascott and Therese Glascott of Chicago, and Virginia Glascott of San Antonio Florida and numerous nieces and nephews.

Rest in Peace, Sister Mary Ann