



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

On the morning of November 4, 2016, our Sister, Therese Greaney, journeyed home to God in the same manner as she journeyed throughout her ninety-five years of life – peacefully, quietly, and contently. Following the advice of St. Clare, she “went forward swiftly, joyfully and securely without stirring up any dust.” Fortified by an early breakfast and encircled by glorious beams of autumn sunshine, this gentle woman experienced a gentle passing from this life to the next. Indeed, the God to whom she entrusted herself, was the God of the gentle breeze (I Kings 19:12-13), the God of unanticipated blessings and unexpected encounters.

On September 14, 1921, a month after Pope Pius XI encouraged the whole Church to follow the example of Therese of Lisieux and the virtues contained in her “Little Way” of confidence and love, Catherine (Murphy) and Patrick Greaney welcomed the birth of a baby girl and with great devotion to the beloved Carmelite, baptized their daughter Therese. Raised in a loving, hard-working and faith-filled Irish family, Therese acquired the values and virtues that she and her three brothers and four sisters would share throughout their lives and pass on to coming generations. Growing up on Chicago’s south side, young Therese attended Saint Rita Elementary School and Lindbloom High School. At the conclusion of her junior year, she transferred to St. Francis Academy where her attraction to religious life and the growing sense of her own vocation were inspired and supported by the Sisters who were her teachers and mentors.

Therese entered the postulancy of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate on September 5, 1939, and began her studies at the College of St. Francis. A year later, she was received into the novitiate and given the name Sister Mary Denis. On August 12, 1942, she made her first profession of vows and was missioned to teach at the Cathedral of St. Raymond. Three years later, she made her final profession and committed herself definitively to living her vows with a generous Franciscan heart “all the days of her life.”

A natural born educator, Sister Denis devoted herself wholeheartedly to the ministry of education. With creativity, efficiency and attentiveness to the needs of each child entrusted to her care, over the course of fifty years, she found joy and fulfillment in teaching children from grades one through four. With the exception of five years spent in Columbus, Ohio, she was rooted deeply in the state of Illinois. Acknowledged by Bishop Joseph Imesch in 1985 with a

Alleluia!



Sister Therese Greaney, OSF

Certificate of Recognition for her years of dedicated service in Catholic Education, Sister Therese’s reputation as a Franciscan educator was well-regarded in the Diocese of Joliet where she spent thirty-three of her many years as a teacher.

In the Summer of 1992, Sr. Therese embarked on a new ministry through Catholic Charities that involved a shift from accompanying children in need of instruction and direction to the accompaniment of elders in need of personal assistance and supportive concern. Recognized by Will County and Diocese of Joliet as “Companion of the Year” and subsequently by the Governor of Illinois and the Illinois Commission on Community Service, Sister Therese was an exemplar of person-centered care and civic service.

Throughout her seventy-seven years in religious life, Sr. Therese held fast to her hopes and desires for community, firmly believing that she was “called by grace” to live out this commitment in love, self-sacrifice and mutuality. She appreciated living with many Sisters at a time and valued the diversity of gifts that came with inter-generational, inter-congregational and inter-cultural living. Describing herself as “quiet by nature,” Sr. Therese’s peaceful and calming presence made a positive difference in the lives of the many Sisters with whom she lived, and especially those whom she companioned in times of illness, transition and uncertainty. A woman of prayer, she embraced the Gospel life with simplicity and sincerity, holding back nothing of herself.

May Sr. Therese’s life and witness continue to inspire in each of us the desire to be faithful to all that we have promised. Together, “not knowing the day or the hour” (Matt 25:13), may we follow her example as we keep ourselves in the love of God awaiting the fulfillment of the divine promise of eternal life.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sister Therese Greaney, OSF

September 14, 1921 — November 4, 2016

Born: September 14, 1921
Parents: Patrick and Catherine (Murphy) Greaney
Postulancy: September 5, 1939
Novitiate: August 12, 1940
First Profession: August 12, 1942
Final Profession: August 12, 1945
Entered New Life: November 4, 2016

Ministry History

1942-1947 Teacher: Grades 1, 3, St. Raymond, Joliet, Illinois
1947-1952 Teacher: Grade 1, Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Ohio
1952-1953 Teacher: Grade 1, St. Joseph, Elgin, Illinois
1953-1962 Teacher: Grade 1, St. Clement, Chicago, Illinois
1962-1967 Teacher: Grades 2, 4, St. Raymond, Joliet
1967-1969 Teacher: Grade 2, St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, Illinois
1969-1973 Teacher: Grade 4, SS. Peter & Paul, Naperville, Illinois
1973-1974 Teacher: Grades 4, St. Mary Help of Christians, Green Creek, Illinois
1974-1978 Teacher: Grades 3, 4, St. Joseph, Joliet
1978-1992 Teacher: Grade 2, St. John the Baptist, Joliet
1992-2006 Senior Companion Program, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet
2006-2008 Community Service, Guardian Angel Home, Joliet
2008-2016 Community Service, Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet

Wake: Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Prayer Service: Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Mass of Christian Burial: Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Burial: Thursday, November 10, 2016, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
Interment: Section 8, Lot 343, Grave 5, Resurrection Cemetery
Predeceased by: Her parents: Patrick Greaney and Catherine (Murphy) Greaney, Brothers: James, William and Patrick and Sisters: Margaret Ansley, Catherine Earle, Rita Bartz MacMillan and Maryellen Riorden.
Survived by: Nieces and nephews

Rest in Peace, Sister Therese!