

Alleluia!

Sister M. Ursula Hanzl, O.S.F.



Sister Ursula Hanzl was born on January 28, 1918, to Joseph and Mary Barsa Hanzl in Cleveland, Ohio. Baptized Anna Helen at St. Procop Church, she was one of nine children. Preceded in death by her brothers Joseph and Edward and her sister Mary, Ursula is survived by her brother Frank and her sisters Agnes, Cecilia, Helen and Mildred. Our deceased Sister Philomena was her aunt.

Anna graduated from St. Procop Elementary School and attended St. Procop High School. She worked for several years, six of them in a factory, before entering the Sisters of St. Francis at the age of 28, on September 4, 1946. As a Postulant she graduated from St. Francis Academy. On August 12, 1947, Anna entered the Novitiate and received the name Sister Mary Ursula. After profession of vows on August 12, 1949, she completed the work for her Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of St. Francis with a major in history. Ursula later earned a Master of Arts degree in education from DePaul University, Chicago.

In 1951 Sister Ursula began her 22 years in education. This included three years at Cleveland Central Catholic High School in Ohio, eight years at St. Francis Academy in Joliet and 10 years at the College of St. Francis, where she also served as Assistant Registrar. From 1965 through 1967, Ursula was the National Secretary for the Franciscan Sisters Education Conference.

In 1973 Sister Ursula was asked to assume the position of secretary to the Graduate Department of the North American College and the Institute for Continuing Theological Education in Rome, Italy. Besides her duties as secretary, Ursula became friend and confidant to a large portion of the U.S. clergy, hosted many of our sisters who visited Italy, accompanied American pilgrims and tourists to Papal audiences, enjoyed the "sensus Ecclesia," sense of Church, traveled throughout Italy and visited the Holy Land. During her 13 years in

Rome, she served under five directors of the Institute and four directors of the Graduate Department. She once wrote, "What is my ministry in this Roman milieu? It is just to pray, to witness, to work in my 'corner of the vineyard' just as any other Joliet Franciscan ministers in hers, be it Brazil, Guam or the United States."

When Sister Ursula returned to the United States in 1986, she spent two years as secretary at St. John Cathedral in Cleveland. She returned to Joliet and she spent a year as substitute teacher at St. Francis Academy, 11 years as Librarian and three years as volunteer reader at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, where she officially retired in 2002.

Life was not always easy for Sister Ursula. Though she suffered because of the many changes that occurred after Vatican II, she lived her convictions, supported her Sisters and appreciated being a Joliet Franciscan.

This past year, Sister Ursula became very frail, both physically and mentally. She was admitted to Meadowbrook Nursing Home this past June 26th. It was there that on the morning of Saturday, September 6, 2003, Ursula quietly and peacefully went home to her God.

Sister Ursula, we thank you for sharing your life with us as teacher, secretary, librarian, sister and friend these 56 years. As you begin eternity with the God you loved and served so faithfully, remember us, your family, your friends, your Franciscan Sisters. Amen! Alleluia!

Sister M. Ursula Hanzl, O.S.F.
28 January 1918 - 6 September 2003

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Born: January 28, 1918; Cleveland, OH
Parents: Joseph and Mary (Barsa) Hanzl
Entered From: St. Procop, Cleveland, OH
Postulancy: September 4, 1946
Novitiate: August 12, 1947
Profession: August 12, 1949
Entered New Life: Saturday, September 6, 2003; Meadowbrook Manor, Bolingbrook, IL at 9:00 a.m.

Ministry History

1950 - 1951 Student at CSF; St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet, IL
1951 - 1953 Teacher, History/Typing; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1953 - 1954 Teacher; St. Procopius, Chicago, IL
1954 - 1965 Assistant Registrar/History Instructor; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1965 - 1970 Teacher of Social Studies; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1970 - 1973 Teacher of Government; Cleveland Central Catholic H.S., Cleveland, OH
1973 - 1986 Secretary; North American College, Rome, Italy
1986 - 1988 Secretary/Clerk; St. John Cathedral, Cleveland, OH
1988 - 1989 Substitute Teacher; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1988 - 1999 Librarian; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL
1999 - 2002 Volunteer Reader; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL
2002 - 2003 Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Wake: Wednesday, September 10, 2003, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Wake Service: Wednesday, September 10, 2003, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Mass of Christian Burial: Wednesday, September 10, 2003, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Burial: Thursday, September 11, 2003; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 8:00 a.m.
to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
S8 - L333 - G4

Survived by: Sisters Cecilia Ughrin, Helen Rutti, Mildred Harvey, Agnes David, brother, Frank J. Hanzl, and nieces and nephews.

Rest in Peace, Sister Ursula