



## Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

On Friday afternoon, May 4, 2012, as the Church concluded a week of prayer and reflection dedicated to the Good Shepherd, our Sr. Martin Hornak responded without hesitation to the tender voice she had longed to hear. Lovingly called by name, the Good Shepherd, to whom she had entrusted her life of consecration and mission, enfolded her in His arms, close to His heart, and gently carried her home for all eternity.

Born to her parents Johanna (Zalubi) and Martin Hornak on May 17, 1917, Julia entered a world where England and Germany were waging war, a world where miraculous events were taking place at Fatima, and where the Chicago Cubs triumphed over the Boston Braves four days in a row. Baptized at Sacred Heart Parish on Chicago's west side, Julia was initiated into the faith and ethnic heritage of her Slovak ancestors and deeply influenced by the customs and character of a vibrant immigrant community. One of five children, she learned from an early age onward the importance of family and friendship, the centrality of religious commitment and cultural identity, and the necessity of education and the arts. Throughout her life, she would promote these values as she empowered others to cultivate them from one generation to the next, from one culture to another.

As a hope-filled adolescent, Julia became an aspirant with the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate and attended St. Francis Academy in Joliet, Illinois. On September 8, 1934, she entered the postulancy and in August of the following year, she was received into the Novitiate and given the name Sister Martin. Two years later, she made her first profession of vows and on August 12, 1940, she made her perpetual profession. During her years in formation, she was described by her superiors as a person who readily "braved all difficulties," as a young woman with "strong opinions," and as a sister who was "not only a good teacher," but someone who could do "just about anything!" Characterized by those who knew her well as "deep," "charitable," "jovial," "whole-hearted," "determined," and having a "quiet way about her," Sr. Martin said of herself during those early years in religious life that she lived "with a heart filled with hope," mindful of "so many opportunities for growth," always discovering in community "an experience of grace."

Sr. Martin held a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree from the College of St. Francis. She also completed coursework in administration and instruction at Marquette University, the University of Dayton, De Lourdes College and Northern Illinois University. Eager to increase her

# Alleluia!



### Sister M. Martin Hornak, OSF

knowledge of the Spanish language and Mexican culture for the sake of ministry, she studied for a time in Cuernavaca, Mexico, at CALE (*Centro de Artes y Lenguas*). A lifelong learner and teacher, firmly rooted in the tradition of Franciscan education, Sister Martin had a strong sense of mission and a vital commitment to urban education, especially among immigrants and the poor. In the mid-1950s and early 1960s, she was among the first sisters to generously volunteer for new congregation missions in the South and in Brazil. However, parishes and pastors within the inner city of Chicago, especially Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Fr. John Spitskovsky, would claim her as their own – as teacher, principal, advocate, mentor, *sestra* and *hermana*. Over the years, amidst the duties and responsibilities of her religious life, and despite geographical distances, Sr. Martin remained devoted and involved in the lives of her family members and longtime friends. For her, they always were an expression of God's great love, wonder and joy.

In 1985, Sr. Martin reinvented herself as well as her life in ministry as she moved from elementary education, adult literacy and Teaching English as a Second Language, to becoming a much beloved coordinator of Arts and Crafts for the St. Pascal's Senior Center as well as a parish religious educator and Eucharistic minister. Also a faithful volunteer for many years at Our Lady of Angels, Sr. Martin decided to make it her home in 1998. Continuing to treasure the challenges and blessings of each day and steadfast in her commitment to serve others through the ministries of presence, prayer and sacrifice, Sr. Martin proved herself to be at the end of the life, the culmination of who she was throughout her life - a craftswoman *par excellence*, who crocheted, stitched and wove together the threads of her life in ways that were as amazing as they were subtle. In the process, like the Good Shepherd, whom she sought to imitate, she gathered and gifted so many with the loving works of her hands and her heart. *Adios e muchas gracias, Hermana Martín. Zbohom a d'akujeme, sestra Martin.* Go with God, Sister Martin and with our love and thanks. Alleluia. Alleluia.

# *Sister M. Martin Hornak, OSF*

*May 17, 1917 — May 4, 2012*

<i>Born:</i>	May 17, 1917
<i>Parents:</i>	Martin and Johanna (Zalubi) Hornak
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 8, 1934
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1935
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1937
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 12, 1940
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	May 4, 2012

## **Ministry History**

1937—1946	Teacher: Grades 2 & 3, St. Mary, Columbus, Ohio
1946—1951	Teacher: Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6, St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, Illinois
1951—1953	Teacher: Grade 7, St. Mary, Des Plaines, Illinois
1953—1954	Teacher: Grades 7 & 8, Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, Illinois
1954—1957	Teacher: Grades 5, 7 & 8, St. John the Baptist, Joliet
1957—1958	Teacher: Grades 5 & 6, St. Jude, Joliet
1958—1959	Teacher: Grade 8, Sacred Heart, Englewood, Illinois
1959—1960	Teacher: Grade 8, St. Mary, Des Plaines
1960—1961	Teacher: St. Stephen, Streator, Illinois, Grades 7 & 8
1961—1967	Superior, Principal and Teacher: Grade 8, St. Joseph, Joliet
1967—1969	Superior and Principal: St. Stephen, Streator, Illinois
1969—1985	Principal and Teacher: Grades 7 & 8, Adult Education, Assumption, Chicago
1985—1998	Coordinator of Arts and Crafts: St. Pascal Senior Center, Chicago
1998—2012	Community Service: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

<i>Wake:</i>	Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Wednesday, May 9, 2012, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 360, Grave 5, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents Johanna (Zalubi) and Martin Hornak, her brothers, John and Martin and her sister, Mary
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her sister, Johanna Lench, nieces and nephews

*Rest in Peace, Sister Martin*