

Sister Mary Hromcho, O.S.F. (Joselma)



- Born:** September 21, 1911
Parents: John and Barbara (Bacha) Hromcho
Entered from: St. Joseph, Lloydell, PA
Postulancy: September 3, 1928
Novitiate: August 12, 1929
Profession: August 12, 1931
Died: Saturday, June 20, 1998 at Provena St. Joseph Medical Center at approximately 8:55 p.m.
- Ministry:**
- 1931 - 1938 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grades 4, 6, 7
 1938 - 1942 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, High School Religion, English, Latin, History, Geometry
 1942 - 1943 Holy Family High School, Bayfield, WI, Religion, English, Algebra, Civics, General Science
 1943 - 1944 Corpus Christi High School, Columbus, OH, Librarian, English, Algebra, Ancient History, General Science
 1944 - 1948 St. Mary High School, Columbus, OH, History, Physics, Algebra, Religion, English, Religion at School for the Deaf
 1948 - 1950 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 7
 1950 - 1958 St. Mary High School, Columbus, OH, Religion, History, Mathematics, English, American Democracy
 1958 - 1980 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, History Department
 1980 - 1981 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Business Office Staff
 1981 - 1984 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, History Professor
 1984 - 1996 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Library Staff, Technical Services Assistant
 1996 - 1997 Retired, St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
 1997 - 1998 Retired, Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL
- Wake:** Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Tuesday, June 23, 1998
 2-7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.
- Mass of Christian Burial:** Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
 Tuesday, June 23, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.
- Burial:** Wednesday, June 24, 1998 leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8 - L337 - G6
- Survived by:** her brother Andrew Hromcho (Millsboro, DE) and her sisters Ann Lucien (Millsboro, DE), Marge Boyce (Millsboro, DE), nieces Joan Boyce (Millsboro, DE), Karen Ashley (Millsboro) and nephew Robert Boyce (New Fairfield, CT)

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,
life is not ended, but merely changed.*

Sister Mary Hromcho was born in Beaverdale, Pennsylvania on September 21, 1911 to John and Barbara Hromcho. She attended school in Beaverdale. She was active in the parish church of St. Joseph and highly recommended by her pastor as a worthy candidate for religious life.

On September 3, 1928, Mary was received as a postulant with the Franciscan Congregation in Joliet and continued her academic studies as she prepared for Novitiate. The following August 12, 1929, Mary became a Novice, receiving the name, Sister Mary Joselma. In a letter to Mother Thomasine, requesting profession for vows, Sister Mary had written, "In words I promise for a year, but in my heart, I promise for life."

Following First Profession of Vows on August 12, 1931, Sister Mary returned to Pennsylvania to teach at St. Stephen School in Johnstown. It was during her stay in St. Stephen's that a second flood devastated the central area of Johnstown, with the flood waters reaching to the third floor of the convent, while the sisters sought to avoid the flood waters by climbing to a higher story of the building. Fortunately the lives of the Sisters were spared as the waters receded.

Sister Mary's pursuit of learning led her to ten colleges and universities in the United States as well as Merton College in Oxford, England and the University of Edinboro, Scotland. Sister Mary taught in various high schools in Illinois and Ohio before becoming a history professor at the College of St. Francis in 1958. Sister Mary was loved by her students and honored by her colleagues at the College on several occasions.

In 1997, Sister Mary moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in Joliet, where she continued her informal learning through educational T.V., reading and conversations. Those who knew Sister Mary always spoke of her patience, her willingness to help others and of her love of prayer. She was an avid letter writer and was known to write letters to the mayor, giving advice on transportation plans, and to the Finnish Embassy, advising them of some historic documents she had discovered that were of interest to them.

In early June of 1998, Sister Mary was admitted to Provena St. Joseph Medical Center because of abdominal pain. Patient in her suffering, Sister Mary was always appreciative of all who came to spend time with her at the hospital and those who cared for her needs. The Sisters continued to visit and to pray with Sister Mary as her health weakened. On June 20, 1998 as the Congregation Jubilee Day was drawing to a close, Sister Mary quietly and peacefully entered the celebration for her eternal Jubilee, going to meet the God to whom she had dedicated her whole life, renewing again the promises she had made as a very young Sister.

Sister Mary we thank you for the history of your life lived among us. We ask you to continue to pray for all of us, your family, your friends your pupils and your Franciscan Sisters. Help us to continue to reach out to others in love. May you know the gift of God's peace forever. Amen. Alleluia.

