

**Sister Janet Kahler, O.S.F.**

**Born:** April 17, 1905

**Parents:** Andrew and Mary (Stripmeyer) Kahler

**Entered from:** St. Augustine, Rensselaer, IN

**Postulancy:** February 2, 1930

**Novitiate:** August 12, 1930

**Profession:** August 12, 1932

**Died:** Saturday, January 11, 1997 at St. Joseph Medical Center at 1:40 p.m.



**Ministry:**

1932 - 1934 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Grades 3, 4, 5, 6

1934 - 1935 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Grades 5, 6

1935 - 1936 University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, Student

1936 - 1937 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Student

1937 - 1938 University of IL, Urbana, IL, Student

1938 - 1949 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Bursar, Instructor: Accounting/Social Studies

1949 - 1976 Congregation of the Third Order of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, Joliet, IL,  
Treasurer General

1976 - 1977 Accountant for Attorneys Wysong and Beresof

1977 - 1979 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Business Office

1979 - 1980 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Director of Business Office/  
Criminal Justice Office

1980 - 1985 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Building Administrator

1985 - 1997 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

**Wake:** Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Monday, January 13, 1997  
2-7:00 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

**Mass of Christian Burial:** Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Monday, January 13, 1997 at 7 p.m.

**Burial:** Tuesday, January 14, 1997 leaving Our Lady of Angels 9:30 a.m.  
to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8-L339-G6

**Survived by:** nieces and nephews

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,*

*'e is not ended, but merely changed.*

Sister Janet Kahler was born in Rensselaer, Indiana on April 17, 1905 the ninth child of Andrew and Mary Kahler. She was baptized Mathilda at St. Augustine Church on April 30, 1905. Together with her brothers and sisters, Anna, Flora, Agnes, Joseph, Dora, Elizabeth, Arnold, Anthony and Pauline, Mathilda enjoyed the richness of their parents' love and grew in their faith.

Following graduation from Rensselaer High School and Hammond Business College, Mathilda worked at a bank. Desiring to pursue a vocation as a Franciscan Sister, Mathilda came to Joliet to visit the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, hoping to be a member of their congregation. The story is told, however, that the taxi driver brought Mathilda to St. Francis Convent on the hill, so she stayed and visited with the Joliet Franciscans and was impressed with their hospitality and friendliness. On February 2, 1930 Mathilda returned as a postulant, and was received into the novitiate and given the name of Sister Janet. Following her first profession of vows on August 12, 1932, Sister Janet began teaching at Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish in Shelby, Ohio.

In 1938, Sister Janet went to the College of St. Francis in Joliet, to serve as instructor and College Bursar. Sister Janet served as General Treasurer of the Congregation for a quarter of a century. She coordinated the building of St. Francis Academy on Larkin Avenue, Albert Hall at the College of St. Francis, the addition to CSF Tower Hall, and Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. She visited Brazil to observe the construction of San Damiano, the school and residence in Goiania. Letters from Sister Janet begged the Sisters to be saving in their ways to help to offset the cost of these projects and praised them for their cooperation. Sister Janet was recognized and loved in the business world of Joliet and Chicago. She sought advice from the business leaders of the area, and also gave them advice, prayed for them and led many closer to God. After her retirement from the Congregation office of Treasurer, Sister Janet continued to use her gifts of financial and business management in working at St. Francis Academy and Guardian Angel Home.

In 1985, Sister Janet retired at Our Lady of Angels. She continued to serve in as many ways as she could, accumulating close to 1500 volunteer hours at OLA. In 1994, Sister Janet was bestowed the honor of Member Emeritus of the Pension Trust Committee, recognizing her for her foresight and stewardship in inaugurating the Pension Trust Fund for the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate. Perhaps the words written by her pastor, Rev. Stanislaus Neiberg on December 15, 1929, were prophetic: "I can assure you, when Mathilda Kahler casts her lot with the good Sisters of St. Francis, they acquire a jewel, a most noble girl, and a wonderful character, whom you will love and treasure most highly."

As her years advanced, Sister Janet grew more frail. Following a fall on January 11, 1997, Sister Janet was admitted to St. Joseph Medical Center, where she died peacefully in the presence of her Sisters.

Sister Janet, you leave us a rich legacy of bricks and mortar built on a foundation of faith and trust in God's providence. May you continue to watch over us your family, your friends and your Franciscan Sisters as you enter the eternal mansion, to be with God forever. Amen. Alleluia.

