

Alleluia!

Sister Marie Therese Kaufman, OSF



Sister Marie Therese Kaufman was born in Sigel, Illinois, to Tony and Sophia (Schwert) Kaufman on October 7, 1920. She was baptized at St. Michael Parish in Sigel, Illinois, and given the name Dolores Mary. She was the second oldest of seven children. Her youngest brother died suddenly of a heart attack, but all her other brothers and sisters, Adolph, Norma, Agnes, Clifford and Albert are presently living in the Effingham area.

Dolores attended grade school in Green Creek; it was from St. Mary Help of Christians that Dolores entered the community in September of 1937. She graduated from St. Francis Academy and the College of St. Francis, where she received both a B.A. degree and a degree from the Seraphic Institute. At her novitiate ceremony on August 12, 1938, Dolores received the name of Sister Marie Therese, the name she kept throughout her religious life.

Sister Marie Therese loved small children and had a wonderful rapport with them, which was evidenced by her more than 50 years of teaching children in the primary grades. All her teaching took place in Illinois, most of it at St. Michael in Sigel, Illinois. She loved teaching and felt very humbled and honored to prepare so many children for their First Communion and Reconciliation, and shared her love of Jesus in the many religious education classes that she taught. To Sister Marie Therese teaching was something she did around the year. Not only did she teach during the regular school term, but also she taught in our St. Francis Reading Center at the Motherhouse for many, many summers. She also loved to volunteer at the House of Prayer.

Those of us who knew Sister Marie Therese realized that though she appeared to be very quiet, she did love being with people. She often cooked a wonderful meal, with the help of Sister Christine Tegeler, and entertained sisters in the area for hours by playing "hand and foot," dice, or whatever game was requested at that time or by hosting one of our congregational regional meetings. She was hospitable and generous to everyone. Sister Marie Therese wrote on her "travelers' check" given out at the 1996 Chapter that her intention was "to daily pray

and show care and love for each person she met." She indeed kept this promise.

Sisters Marie Therese and Christine had regular visitors to Lillyville who shared laughs and fun (especially card playing) with them. Sisters Andrea and Anne Flaska made many trips to this special place and brought a lot of joy to Sisters Marie Therese and Christine. After Sister Marie Therese retired from full time teaching, she continued to help out in Sacred Heart Parish in Lillyville and at St. Michael School in Sigel by teaching religious education classes, and tutoring students as needed. She also spent many hours sewing and quilting, a hobby that she continued even when she moved to OLA in 2000. Sister Marie Therese stayed as actively busy as she could, quilting and sewing at Our Lady of Angels, until Parkinson's disease curtailed her activities.

Her final days were spent in prayer and in quiet waiting for our Lord to come meet her at the doors of her new home. And so, very quietly, just as she lived her life, she went home to her God in the early morning of Sunday, November 13th. She is now released of her suffering and is with the God whom she served so faithfully for so many years.

Sister Marie Therese, we thank you for your quiet way of rejoicing and loving all those with whom you worked and lived. We, your sisters, along with your family members and friends, will remember you, your cousins Sisters Eleanor Fallert and Theophane Schwerdt and all our sisters and all who have preceded us in death as we thank our God for you and for all the joy you brought to our hearts. Amen. Alleluia!

Sister Marie Therese Kaufman, OSF

7 October 1920 — 13 November 2005

Born: October 7, 1920, Sigel, Illinois
Parents: Anthony Kaufman and Sophia Schwert Kaufman
Postulancy: September 6, 1937
Novitiate: August 12, 1938
First Profession: August 12, 1940
Final Profession: August 12, 1943
Entered New Life: November 12, 2005

Ministry History

1940-1942 Full Time Student, College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1942-1944 Teacher, Grades 1, 2, 3, 4: Immaculate Conception, Kankakee, IL
1944-1948 Teacher, Kindergarten and Prefect: Guarian Angel Home, Joliet, IL
1948-1951 Teacher, Grades 1, 2, 3: St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL
1951-1957 Teacher, Grade 1: St. Mary, DesPlaines, IL
1957-1958 Teacher, Grade 1: St. Pius X, Lombard, IL
1958-1962 Teacher, Grade 1: St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL
1962-1968 Teacher, Grade 1: St. Matthew, Champaign, IL
1968-1969 Teacher, Grade 1: St. Stephen, Streator, IL
1969-1992 Teacher, Grades 1, 2: St. Michael, Sigel, IL
1992-1994 Teacher, Substitute: St. Michael, Sigel
1994-1996 Teacher, Tutor: St. Michael, Sigel and Sacred Heart, Lillyville, IL
1996-1997 Teacher, Tutor, Religion: Sacred Heart, Lillyville
1997-2000 Volunteer: Sacred Heart, Lillyville
2000-2002 Community Service: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
2002-2005 Special Ministry/Retired

Wake: Wednesday, November 16, 2005, 3:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wake Service: Wednesday, November 16, 2005, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Mass of Christian Burial
Burial Wednesday, November 16, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Thursday, November 17, 2005, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 8:30 a.m. to
Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Interment: S8-L4-G7 Resurrection Cemetery
Predeceased by: Her parents Anthony Kaufman and Sophia (Schwert); brother, Jim
Kaufman.
Survived by: Her brothers, Adolf Kaufman, Clifford Kaufman, and Albert Kaufman; sisters,
Norma Hoene and Agnes Walk.

Rest in Peace, Sister Marie Therese