



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

"All shall be well, and all shall be well, all manner of things shall be well." Julian of Norwich

Ever attentive and sensitive to the realities of life, our sister, Dorothy Kinsella, never tired of reading the Word in the world. With confidence in God's power to do more than she could ask for or imagine (Eph 3:20), she embraced the call to discipleship and dared to follow in the uncharted way of Jesus, without hesitation, without looking back, trusting the process and believing that "there is a Force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go" (Julian of Norwich). So it was that she lived, and so it was on September 14, 2015, the feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross, that she passed peacefully from this life into Eternal Life.

Born on August 25, 1934, Dorothy was welcomed lovingly into this world by her parents Margaret (O'Grady) and John A. Kinsella. Together with her brother Daniel Patrick and her sister Patricia, she was raised in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago where participation in the vibrant and faith-filled community of St. Clement Parish was at the heart of her family's life. From an early age, Dorothy's love of learning was fostered in the parish's elementary school and high school. It was during those formative years that she first came to know and love the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate who were her teachers and sources of inspiration.

Petite, yet spirited, Dorothy was blessed with intelligence, creativity, curiosity and an enchanting Irish wit. Informed by her family's own immigrant heritage and influenced by her Chicagoland upbringing, her passion for history came naturally as did her political astuteness and social consciousness. Moving from adolescence into young adulthood, Dorothy summoned the courage to share with her parents her desire to enter religious life. While readily supporting their daughter's choice of vocation, her father reserved to himself the choice of congregation: "Dorothy," he said, "It has to be with "our" sisters!" Dorothy agreed completely and soon embarked on her journey of sixty three years as a Joliet Franciscan.

On September 2, 1952, Dorothy arrived in Joliet and was welcomed into the postulancy together with a most diverse group of classmates. A year later, on August 13, 1953, she was received into the novitiate and given the name, Sr. John Margaret. Two years later, on August 12, 1955, she made her first profession of vows and immediately found herself missioned to Ohio. Ready, willing and able, she proceeded to set a record for versatility in teaching. Over a span of thirteen

Alleluia!



Sister Dorothy Kinsella, OSF

years, she taught more subjects and more grade levels than most would have thought possible. From elementary school to high school to college, she had a distinctive capacity to educate, to draw out from others - regardless of age - that which lies within and, in doing so, to create the conditions necessary for becoming agents of their own histories. In the fall of 1968, building upon the foundations of her own undergraduate studies in history at the College of St. Francis, Sr. Dorothy went on to pursue advanced graduate studies in American History at St. Louis University. Completing her doctorate in 1971, she returned to her *alma mater*, where she taught until 1975, at which time God's holy manner of working set forth before her a new and unprecedented course of action for stewarding her many gifts and talents during a time of renewal and revolution in the Church and in society.

In 1975, Sr. Dorothy moved to Washington, D.C., where she became a staff member of NETWORK, a prominent religious lobby in the nation's capital. A formidable forerunner to "Nuns on the Bus," she joined with other women religious in a ministry devoted to advocacy, education and public policy related to multi-faceted and inter-connected issues of peace and justice. Returning to Joliet in 1980, she served as a member and assistant to the Central Administration of the Congregation for four years. Reading the signs of the times in the Joliet area and firmly rooted in an experiential belief that "life is always possible, reinvented," Sr. Dorothy committed herself "to creating something where there had been nothing" for victims of domestic violence and abuse. Trained in Spiritual Direction, she also devoted herself to parish ministries of religious education and adult faith formation as well as diverse ministries of justice, peace and the integrity of creation sponsored by the Joliet Franciscans.

An example of what it means to be a Gospel woman, Sr. Dorothy gave voice and visibility to her Franciscan identity as a contemplative in action, a peace-maker and an unrelenting reconciler. In joyful gratitude for her legacy of justice and love, gentle and wise (Matt 10:16), let us say: Alleluia, alleluia!

Sister Dorothy Kinsella, OSF

August 25, 1934—September 14, 2015

<i>Born:</i>	August 25, 1934
<i>Parents:</i>	John A. Kinsella and Margaret E. (O'Grady) Kinsella
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 2, 1952
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 13, 1953
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1955
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 13, 1958
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	September 14, 2015

Ministry History

1955-1958	Teacher: Grades 2, 3, 4; Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Ohio
1958-1962	Teacher: Grades 6, 7; Corpus Christi, Columbus
1962-1964	Teacher: Religion II, American History, World History, Speech; Cardinal Gibbons, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
1964-1968	Teacher: History; College of Saint Francis, Joliet, Illinois
1968-1971	Student: St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri
1971-1975	Teacher: College of Saint Francis, History; Joliet
1975-1980	Political Ministry (Issue Writer): Network; Washington, DC
1980-1984	Administrative Assistant: Motherhouse; Joliet
1984-1985	Adjunct Faculty: College of Saint Francis, Joliet and Lewis University, Romeoville
1985-1991	Coordinator: Groundwork, Guardian Angel Home, Joliet
1991-1998	Director: Groundwork, Guardian Angel Home, Joliet
1998-1999	Administrator: Violence Prevention Services, Guardian Angel Home, Joliet
1999-2001	Vice President: Adult Services; Guardian Angel Home, Joliet
2001-2004	Parish Ministry: St. Andrew the Apostle, Romeoville, Illinois
2004-2011	Adult Faith Formation: St. Andrew the Apostle, Romeoville
2011-2015	Congregation Service

For many years Sr. Dorothy had been a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of St. Francis, a member of the Anti-Racism Committee (ARC) and a member of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee (JPIC)

<i>Wake:</i>	Monday, September 21, 2015, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Monday, September 21, 2015, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Monday, September 21, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Tuesday, September 22, 2015, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 8:30 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 360, Grave 9, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	By her parents, John A. Kinsella and Margaret E. (O'Grady) Kinsella, her brother, Daniel Patrick Kinsella
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her sister, Patricia Kinsella Reichart, and nieces and nephews

Rest in Peace, Sister Dorothy!