

# Alleluia!

## Sister Mary Paul Korman, O.S.F.



Sister Mary Paul Korman was born in Chicago, Illinois, on April 9, 1913, to Paul and Johanna Rentka Korman. Baptized Emilia at Assumption Church, she was one of three children. She was preceded in death by her brother Paul and is survived by her sister Ann.

Emilia wanted to be a sister since early childhood. Thus, on September 28, 1930, she came to Joliet and entered the postulancy. Upon becoming a novice on August 12, 1931, Emilia received the name Sister Mary Paul.

As a postulant and novice, Sister Mary Paul completed her high school education at St. Francis Academy. She later earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in social studies, from the College of St. Francis. She received her Master of Arts degree in Administration/Supervision from DePaul University in Chicago. Throughout her life Mary Paul furthered her education taking courses and workshops at various colleges and universities, including Barat College, Northern and Southern Universities in Illinois; St. Louis University and Charles University in Slovakia.

After Sister Mary Paul professed vows on August 12, 1933, she began her lifelong ministry of education. For 39 years she ministered in various schools, mostly in Illinois. This included 15 years at St. Mary School, Des Plaines, Illinois; six years each at St. Bernard's Joliet and Divine Savior, Chicago, where she was both teacher and principal and four years at Providence Catholic High School, New Lenox, Illinois. Mary Paul also spent four years as Administrator of Guardian Angel Home, Joliet. It was at Guardian Angel Home that Mary Paul met Sal DiLeo. He credits her with his return to the Church. She is one of the sisters who is fondly remembered in his book, *Did I Ever Thank You, Sister?*

In 1975 Sister Mary Paul joined Mother Borromeo Mack, her good friend Sister Andréa Prindes, as well as other sisters, as a teacher of adults in the Adult Education Center housed at St. Francis Academy, Joliet. She spent a total of 17 years in this ministry, which was conducted in conjunction with Joliet

Junior College. She once described adult education in the following words: "The adult program opens the doors to true sympathy and understanding in seeing others. The Beatitudes are alive!" During this time she also served as consultant, secretary of the Illinois Adult Education Association and was a member of the Joliet Catholic Diocesan School Board.

Sister Mary Paul loved her Slovak heritage and desired to see the land where her parents were born. After hearing a speech from President Havel requesting teachers of English, at the age of 78, Mary Paul applied to become a Peace Corp Volunteer. After a vigorous interview and evaluation process, she was accepted and became the first American teacher at the University of Forestry in Zvolen, Slovakia. She felt privileged at having the oath of Allegiance to the United States administered by Ambassador Shirley Temple Black. Mary Paul considered her time there "memorable and deeply inspiring," and once called it a "sacred" time.

Upon returning to the United States, Mary Paul continued teaching adults, tutoring and volunteering at OLA. Then, in 1998, she suffered a stroke. Though she kept a positive attitude, never lost the twinkle in her eyes, and fought valiantly, she never fully recovered. On November 26, 2003, after just being checked by one of the nurses, Mary Paul peacefully went home to her God.

Sister Mary Paul, we thank you for your 72 years of ministry with us as teacher, principal, innovator, adventurer and friend. As you begin eternity with the God you served so lovingly and faithfully, remember us, your family, your friends, and your Franciscan sisters. Amen! Alleluia!

**Sister Mary Paul Korman, OSF**  
**9 April 1913 - 26 November 2003**

*Born:* April 9, 1913; Chicago, Illinois 834  
*Parents:* Paul and Anna (Rentka) Korman  
*Entered From:* Assumption Parish, Chicago, Illinois  
*Postulancy:* September 28, 1930  
*Novitiate:* August 12, 1931  
*Profession:* August 12, 1933  
*Entered New Life:* Wednesday, November 26, 2003; Our Lady of Angels at 7:35 p.m.

**Ministry History**

1933 - 1948 Teacher, Grades 3,5,6,7, & 8; St. Mary, DesPlaines, IL  
 1948 - 1950 Teacher, Grade 7; Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet, IL  
 1950 - 1956 Teacher/Principal, Grade 8; St. Bernard, Joliet, IL  
 1956 - 1957 Teacher, Grade 8; St. Peter Elementary, Mansfield, OH  
 1957 - 1963 Principal/Teacher Grades 5, 6 & 8; Divine Savior, Chicago, IL  
 1963 - 1967 Superintendent; Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL  
 1967 - 1969 Teacher, Grade 8; Sacred Heart, Hubbard Woods, IL  
 1969 - 1971 Teacher, Grade 7; St. Pius X, Lombard, IL  
 1971 - 1975 Teacher; Providence High School, New Lenox, IL  
 1975 - 1990 Adult Education; St. Francis Academy Center, Joliet, IL  
 1990 - 1991 Retired; Joliet, IL  
 1991 - 1992 Peace Corps Teacher; University of Forestry/Wood Tech, Czechoslovakia  
 1992 - 1994 Adult Education; Joliet Junior College, Joliet, IL  
 1994 - 1998 Tutor/Volunteer; Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
 1998 - 2003 Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

*Wake:* Monday, December 1, 2003, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Wake Service:* Monday, December 1, 2003, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Mass of Christian Burial:* Monday, December 1, 2003, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Burial:* Tuesday, December 2; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.  
 to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL  
 S8 - L333 - G11

*Survived by:* Her sister, Ann Jurczak, nieces and nephews, and grand nieces and nephews.

**Rest in Peace, Sister Mary Paul**