

SISTER FRANCES MARIE KOSTELEK, O.S.F. (Gilbert) 729

Born: July 25, 1911
Parents: Anton and Mary (Stefanic) Kostelec
Entered from: St. Joseph, Joliet, IL
Postulancy: September 6, 1926
Novitiate: August 12, 1927
Profession: August 12, 1929
Died: Sunday, April 28, 1996, at 2:00 p.m.
at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home



Ministry:

1929 - 1930	St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Domestic Work
1930 - 1931	St. Joseph, Manhattan, IL, Domestic Work
1931 - 1933	St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
1933 - 1934	St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Domestic Work
1934 - 1935	St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
1935 - 1937	St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Domestic Work
1937 - 1939	St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
1939 - 1944	St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Domestic Work
1944 - 1945	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Kitchen\Bakery
1945 - 1948	College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Food Service
1948 - 1950	St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH, Domestic Work
1950 - 1951	St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Domestic Work
1951 - 1954	St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH, Domestic Work
1954 - 1955	St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
1955 - 1956	St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Domestic Work
1956 - 1958	Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
1958 - 1959	St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Domestic Work
1959 - 1960	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work\Bakery
1960 - 1962	St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
1962 - 1963	Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
1963 - 1968	Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Domestic Work
1963 - 1968	SS. Peter & Paul, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
1968 - 1969	Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
1969 - 1970	Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
1970 - 1972	Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
1972 - 1996	Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Thursday, May 2,
2-7 p.m., with the prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, May 2, at 7 p.m.

Burial: St. Joseph Cemetery, Joliet, IL, Plot 169
Tezak Funeral Directors
Friday, May 3, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:30 a.m.

Survived by sisters: Agnes Goebbels and Sr. Angela Marie Kostelec, O.S.F.
and nieces and nephews

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

Sister Frances Marie was born in Joliet, Illinois to Mary and Anthony Kostelec on July 25, 1911. There were nine children in the family, seven girls and two boys.

Frances entered the Joliet Franciscans from St. Joseph Parish in Joliet, Illinois. This home parish for the Kostelec family always remained dear to them. Frances became a postulant on September 6, 1926 when she was fifteen years old. On entering the Novitiate, Frances was given the name Sister Gilbert. Her greatest desire on entering the Congregation was to graciously serve the sisters in the culinary arts. Her warm smile and sense of humor endeared her to all the sisters who have had the happy experience of living with her. Her cheerful manner and love of laughter were redemptive qualities under stress and strain.

One wintry day in Mansfield, Ohio, when the furnace didn't work, Sister Frances Marie suspended a large sign across the kitchen door which read: Many are cold, but few are frozen. Promptly, she served cups of hot coffee and home-baked kuchen. With happenings like this Sister Frances Marie endeared herself to those who lived with her and worked with her. For over forty years, Sister Frances Marie served her Franciscan Sisters in many of the Convents in Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Sister Frances Marie considered the day she received the habit and became a Sister of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate one of the most important days of her life. Celebrating her Diamond Jubilee on June 24, 1989 marked the faithfulness of her dedication.

Sister Frances Marie became incapacitated as a result of strokes suffered in 1972. She came home from the missions to reside at Our Lady of Angels. Often she was seen flashing a bright smile from her wheelchair in spite of all her pain. Because of strokes which caused her to be paralyzed, Sister Francis Marie was no longer able to speak. She also lost most of her sight because of cataracts she developed during these last years. She then chose as her special ministry that of patient waiting and prayer.

Throughout her long days of sickness, Sister Angela Marie would be Sister Frances Marie's constant visitor, praying with her, telling her the news of the day and helping her in any way she could. It was fitting that as Sister Frances Marie quietly went to her God on Sunday afternoon, April 28, 1996, that Sister Angela Marie was at her side praying, just as she had done for her Sister Josephine Marie when she breathed her last on November 10, 1990.

Sister Frances Marie, may God bless you with everlasting peace and joy as you enter God's heavenly home with Jesus and His Blessed Mother. We ask you to pray for comfort and peace for your sisters, Agnes and Sister Angela Marie, for all your nieces and nephews and for all your Franciscan family. May you who cared for so many during your life now know the peace of God's eternal care. Amen. Alleluia.

