



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

On May 24, in mid-afternoon, on the feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi and in the presence of Sisters Margaret McGuckin and Carol Jander, with whom she ministered and lived for 30 years, as well as others of her Franciscan family, Sister Judith Kurry peacefully and quietly slipped into her new life.

Born on November 25, 1918, she was the second of eight children, and the first daughter born to John and Mary (Sugar) Kurry. Sister Judith met the Joliet Franciscans when she attended her parish school, SS. Peter and Paul in Chicago, — an introduction that would lead to her life as a Sister of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate for 82 years. She stated simply, “I was influenced by the Sisters at SS. Peter and Paul. I saw how they were willing to help others. I wanted to do the same.”

On September 8, 1935, at the age of 16, she was received into the Congregation as a postulant, along with 15 other young women. In 1936, she graduated from St. Francis Academy (now Joliet Catholic Academy) and earned a Bachelor’s Degree at the College of St. Francis (now the University of St. Francis), a Certificate in Franciscan Studies and a Master’s Degree in Franciscan Studies from the Seraphic Institute at the College of St. Francis.

Sister Judith’s life was the classroom. She began her lifelong ministry of teaching at St. Francis Xavier in 1939, teaching in elementary schools in Ohio and Illinois, and in particular in Joliet. She ministered as secretary at the Catholic Schools Office for the Diocese of Joliet from 1973-74. But the fullness and love of her ministry of teaching was fulfilled as she began a ministry of 30 years at the Franciscan Learning Center in Joliet, working with Sisters Carol Jander and Margaret McGuckin. When asked about her ministry in the field of education after teaching for 70 plus years, she said that she enjoyed all her years, but most especially her last 30 years at the Franciscan Learning Center. She particularly loved the “freshness” and joy that young children bring to each day. Her ministry

Alleluia!



Sister M. Judith Kurry, OSF

was so ingrained in who she was, that she worked as a full time aide at the Franciscan Learning Center until 2010 when she moved into residence at Our Lady of Angels. She continued to minister for the staff at the Franciscan Learning Center preparing the materials they needed for teaching well into her 90s.

She has been described as cheerful, lighthearted, very competent, unpretending, and most especially, prayerful. The seeds of a deep prayer life were sown in the postulancy and novitiate and grew and deepened over the years. In her later years, living with Sisters Margaret and Carol, they spoke of the many times that she just quietly went off to pray. To Sister Judith prayers were “the powerhouse for a successful ministry.”

Reflecting back on her years as a Franciscan, she stated: “The Franciscan way of life is a privilege. Francis made his life one of service to others and I have had the opportunity to work with and serve others through the ministry of teaching.”

As he was dying, St. Francis told his brothers: “I did what was mine to do. May the Lord show you what is yours to do.” Early in her life in her letter of request for vows, she wrote: “Someday I wish to see God and happily say I’ve tried to do what duty asked me to do.”

Sister Judith, you did indeed do what was yours to do. Your Franciscan Sisters and all those young children whose lives you touched over a span of many years celebrate your Franciscan life, your ministry, your dedication and your love for Jesus. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Sister M. Judith Kurry, OSF

November 25, 1918 — May 24, 2018

<i>Born:</i>	November 25, 1918
<i>Parents:</i>	John Kurry and Mary (Sugar) Kurry
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 8, 1935
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1936
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1938
<i>Perpetual Final Vows:</i>	August 12, 1941
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	May 24, 2018

Ministry History

1938-1942	Teacher: Grade 2, St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, Illinois
1942-1948	Teacher: Grades 3, 4, 5, St. Pascal, Chicago
1948-1951	Teacher: Grade 4, St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, Ohio
1951-1952	Teacher: Grade 4, Sacred Heart, Hubbard Woods, Illinois
1952-1953	Teacher: Grade 5, St. Bernard, Joliet, Illinois
1953-1954	Teacher: Grades 4, 5, St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio
1954-1955	Teacher: Grade 6, Sacred Heart-Englewood, Chicago
1955-1956	Teacher: Grades 2, 3, 4, St. Jude, Joliet
1956-1958	Teacher: Grades 6, 7, Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, Ohio
1960-1962	Teacher: Grades 7,8, St. John, Joliet
1962-1963	Teacher: Grade 8, Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Ohio
1963-1965	Teacher: Grade 7, St. Joseph, Freeport, Illinois
1965-1973	Secretary: Catholic School Office, Joliet, Illinois
1974-1977	Teacher: Junior High, St. Ann, Lansing, Illinois
1977-1979	Teacher: Pre-school, St. Anthony, Frankfort, Illinois
1979-1983	Teacher: Pre-school, Franciscan Early Learning Center, Joliet
1983-1985	Teaching Assistant: Franciscan Early Learning Center, Joliet
1985-1989	Teacher: Franciscan Early Learning Center, Joliet
1989-1993	Teacher/Office Work: Franciscan Early Learning Center, Joliet
1993-1995	Teacher: Franciscan Early Learning Center, Joliet
1995-2005	Teaching Assistant: Franciscan Early Learning Center, Joliet
2005-2010	Teacher Aide: Franciscan Early Learning Center, Joliet
2010-2016	Assistant: Franciscan Learning Center, Joliet
2016-2018	Community Service: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet

<i>Wake:</i>	Thursday, May 31, 2018, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Thursday, May 31, 2018, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Thursday, May 31, 2018, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Interment:</i>	Friday, June 1, Section 8, Lot 344, Grave 3, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	By her parents, John Kurry and Mary (Sugar) Kurry, her brothers Michael, Joseph, Lawrence, Albert, Raymond and Robert and her sister, Susan Pucalo
<i>Survived by:</i>	Nieces and nephews

Rest in Peace, Sister Judith!