

Sister Mary Clemens Kvach, O.S.F.



Born: March 7, 1911
 Parents: Joseph and Antoinette (Novotny) Kvach
 Entered from: Holy Trinity, West Dover, OH
 Postulancy: November 28, 1927
 Novitiate: August 12, 1928
 Profession: August 12, 1930
 Died: Friday, December 17, 1999 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL at 3:00 a.m.

Ministry:

1930 - 1940 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Grades 1, 2, 3, 4
 1940 - 1941 St. Francis Convent, Full-time student at College of St. Francis
 1941 - 1945 St. Procop High School, Cleveland, OH, Religion, Latin, Geometry, Algebra, General Science, Biology
 1945 - 1957 St. Procopius High School, Chicago, IL, Religion, Algebra, Geometry, Biology, General Science
 1957 - 1962 St. Procop High School, Cleveland, OH, Chemistry, Biology, Algebra, Geometry, General Math
 1962 - 1965 St. Francis de Sales High School, Chicago, IL, Algebra, Geometry
 1965 - 1969 St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Louisville, OH, Algebra, Geometry, Head of the Math Department
 1969 - 1975 St. Peter High School, Mansfield, OH, Geometry, Algebra, Mathematics
 1975 - 1979 St. Edward, Ashland, OH, Grades 3, 4
 1979 - 1990 St. Mary, Shelby, OH, Elementary classes, Religion, part-time
 1990 - 1999 St. Francis Convent, Motherhouse Reading Program, Tutor
 1999 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Monday, December 20, 1999 from 2-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Monday, December 20, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Tuesday, December 21, 1999 leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL Section 8, Lot 336, Grave 5

Survived by: her brother Edward Kvach of Avon Lake, OH and many nieces and nephews

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

Sister Mary Clemens Kvach was born in West Dover, Ohio on March 7, 1911 to Joseph and Antoinette Novotny Kvach. She was taken to St. Procop Church in Cleveland for Baptism on March 19, the feast of St. Joseph, and was named Josephine after her father. Her family was a source of love and faith. She had five brothers: Edward, Joseph Jerry, Ben and Frank (and Louis who died as a baby) and three sisters: Anna, Mary and Tillie (Sister Mary Richard).

When she was sixteen years old, Josephine came to Joliet to become a postulant with the Joliet Franciscan Sisters. Msgr. Peter Cerveny, her pastor from St. Procop's, wrote to Mother Thomasine: "...Miss Josephine Kvach is a splendid young girl, of sterling character and morals, devout and innocent. I am certain you will find great joy and consolation in her." When Josephine became a novice on August 12, 1928, she received the name Sister Mary Clemens. Following her first profession of vows on August 12, 1930, Sister Mary Clemens went to St. Procopius School in Chicago to minister as a primary teacher.

In 1940, Sister Mary Clemens was asked to stay in Joliet to study full time at the College of St. Francis. Sister Mary Clemens was willing to do this, but she missed her students as she saw the children swinging their book bags on their way to Farragut and St. Raymond's. At CSF she prepared for her ministry to high school students which would span 34 years. Her ministry to high school students began at St. Procop's in Cleveland. After four years, she returned to St. Procopius in Chicago. Some of her previous students there now had her as a high school teacher. Sister Mary Clemens also taught at St. Francis DeSales in Chicago, St. Thomas Aquinas in Louisville and St. Peter's High School in Mansfield, Ohio.

In 1975, Sister Mary Clemens again returned to the grade school scene at St. Edward School in Ashland, Ohio. In 1978, she went to Most Pure Heart of Mary School in Shelby, Ohio. The following year her sister, Sister Mary Richard, joined her in Shelby and together they ministered in the school until 1990 when they moved to the Motherhouse in Joliet to help in the tutoring program there. Sister Mary Clemens always had a special affection for the children who were poor and neglected. She was a kind and compassionate listener to children, as well as to the sisters with whom she lived.

Early in 1999, Sister Mary Clemens moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. It was there that she experienced the sadness of Sister Mary Richard's brain surgery. When Sister Mary Richard died on April 26, 1999, Sister Mary Clemens felt that part of her had also died. In late November, Sister Mary Clemens was hospitalized because of a broken hip. Although she returned to Our Lady of Angels, following an extended stay in the hospital, she grew weaker each day until on December 17, 1999, the day the Church prays the first O Antiphon, 'Come O Wisdom,' God called Sister Mary Clemens home and she peacefully answered God's call to be reunited with her sister, her parents and her family.

Sister Mary Clemens we thank you for your ways of wisdom and kindness that you have shared with us. We ask you to pray for us, your family, your students, your friends and your Franciscan Sisters that we may listen to the wisdom of God and respond in love. May you live in God's love forever. Amen. Alleluia.

