

Sister Mary Richard Kvach, O.S.F. 780



Born: May 25, 1913
Parents: Joseph and Antoinette (Novotny) Kvach
Entered from: Holy Trinity, West Dover, OH
Postulancy: September 3, 1928
Novitiate: August 12, 1929
Profession: August 12, 1931

Died: Monday, April 26, 1999 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home at 12:43 p.m.

Ministry:

1931 - 1942 Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Chicago, IL, Grades 1, 2
1942 - 1958 Holy Family, Cleveland, OH, Grades 1, 2, 3, 4
1958 - 1963 St. Jude, Cleveland, OH, Grade 1
1963 - 1965 St. John, Loveland, CO, Grades 1-2, 3-4
1965 - 1968 St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH, Grades 2, 3
1968 - 1969 St. Edward, Ashland, OH, Grades 2-3
1969 - 1979 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grades 1, 2
1979 - 1990 St. Mary, Shelby, OH, Primary Religion, Grades 1-4
1990 - 1998 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, St. Francis Reading Center, Tutor
1999 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Friday, April 30, 1999
2-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Friday, April 30, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Saturday, May 1, 1999 leaving Our Lady of Angels at
9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL,
Section 8, Lot, 337, Grave 6

Survived by: her sister Sister Mary Clemens Kvach, O.S.F. of Joliet, IL,
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 Richard Kvach was born in West Dover, Ohio on May 25, 1913 to Joseph and Antoinette (Nettie) Novotny Kvach. On June 8, 1913, she was baptized at St. Procop's in Cleveland, Ohio and given the name of Otilia, but her family called her Tillie. She had five brothers: Edward, Joseph, Jerry, Ben and Frank; and three sisters: Josephine (Sister Mary Clemens), Anna and Mary. The family was active at Holy Trinity Parish in Avon Lake. In a letter of recommendation to the General Superior, the pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Rev. Albert J. Aust, described Tillie as "a well behaved scholar, studious and attentive...a good example to others."

Following her first profession of vows on August 12, 1931, Sister Mary Richard began her ministry of teaching at SS. Cyril & Methodius in Chicago. Later Sister Mary Richard taught in Cleveland, Toledo, Ashland, Mansfield and Shelby, Ohio and in Loveland, Colorado. In these places, Sister Mary Richard taught religion to the children from the Catholic schools and public schools. In 1990, she wrote, "It was very gratifying to prepare classes for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion."

During the summer, beginning in 1962, Sister Mary Richard would volunteer her time to be involved in the summer reading program at the Motherhouse. In 1990 Sister Mary Richard, and her sister Sister Mary Clemens, left Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish in Shelby to reside at the Motherhouse in Joliet. Sister Mary Richard continued her tutoring, teaching several students each week. In describing her relationship with one of her students, she wrote: Besides teaching him the skills in reading, I praised him when he succeeded. Just to hear him say 'I read that page without a mistake' was rewarding."

In January 1999, Sister Mary Richard moved to Our Lady of Angels. Though she had lost most of her eyesight and had frequent back pain, she did not complain, but continued to brighten the lives of others. She enjoyed visiting with others and spent much time in prayer and reflection.

In March of 1999, Sister Mary Richard was hospitalized and underwent surgery to remove a non-cancerous tumor from near her brain. Although she was not able to speak after that surgery, her presence continued to inspire others. Sister Mary Clemens spent many hours at her side, speaking to her, praying with her and gently holding her hand as she sat beside her.

When the doctors could do no more, Sister Mary Richard returned to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home where many came to visit and to pray. Shortly after lunch, at 12:43 p.m. on Monday, April 26, 1999, Sister Mary Richard peacefully slipped away to be with her God, forever.

Sister Mary Richard, we thank you for your love and devotion to children. We ask you to continue to watch over all children to keep them from harm. Pray for us your family, your friends, and your Franciscan Sisters, especially Sister Mary Clemens, that we may continue to lead others to truth and goodness. May you enjoy the presence of Jesus forever. Amen. Alleluia.

