

# Alleluia!

## *Sister Mary N. McKeon, OSF*

Sister Mary McKeon was born in Chicago to James and Della Costello McKeon on June 22, 1914. She was the first living child of seven, having had an older brother die at birth. Mary was baptized Mary Nora at St. Basil Church. During her childhood, Mary attended and graduated from St. Francis De Sales Grade School and two year commercial High School Program. She also spent some of her childhood in Ireland, the birthplace of both of her parents where she met many relatives, shared the Irish culture and enjoyed many ethnic dishes, and learned new things. She recalls many of these events in the biography that she has written about her early life.

It was from St. Francis De Sales parish that Mary entered the congregation on September 8, 1932. In August of 1933, Mary became a novice and was given the name Sister Mary Terence, the name that many of her students remember her by. Her temporary profession followed in 1935 and her Perpetual Profession in 1938.

Sister Mary received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in history from the College of St. Francis and attended many classes and workshops on educational and theological topics from various universities. She was always willing and excited about learning new methods for teaching. Her teaching/administrative career covered many schools in Illinois and Ohio, serving as teacher and principal as well as superior in many of the houses where she lived. In talking about her reason for teaching, Sister Mary shared that "I have taught them (the students) from books and even more from my example and instructions that they would go on into life equipped to be good citizens for God and for their country." This was so evident by the sisters who taught beside her and they often



shared stories of the great teacher and principal that Sister Mary was. Sister Mary loved each of the missions at which she served but she often spoke of her most favorite mission in Green Creek, Illinois. When Mary moved from a full time classroom into teaching adults to earn their G.E.D., she continued to work with this same enthusiasm and dedication. Sister Mary later tutored in our St. Francis Reading Center, working with the younger children strengthening their academic skills.

When Sister Mary retired to OLA in 2002, she was still involved with many of the crafts that she enjoyed—reading, writing, crocheting as well as attending many of the activities there. In more recent years, as she became more frail, she participated as she could and enjoyed being with the other residents. It was very quietly late in the evening of January 28, 2007, that Sister Mary went home to the God that she served so faithfully and with dedication these many years. We will miss her stories, her smiles and all the joy she brought to us. We pray for her living sisters, Kathleen and Dolores, her many nieces and nephews, friends, and sisters in community who will miss her. We pray especially for her living classmates, Sisters Christine Lentsch, Luke Livingston, Mary Franz, Kathleen Kirk and Mariarthur Hamann as they continue to serve God through their lives and ask that they may be blessed with good health and happy moments. We pray in thanksgiving for the gift that Sister Mary McKeon was to each of us. We pray that she may forever rest in the arms of our loving God. Amen. Alleluia.

## *Sister Mary N. McKeon, OSF*

*June 22, 1914 — January 28, 2007*

<i>Born:</i>	June 22, 1914
<i>Parents:</i>	James McKeon and Della (Costello) McKeon
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 8, 1932
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1933
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1935
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 12, 1938
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	January 28, 2007

### **Ministry History**

1935-1944	Teacher, Grades 2-7: St. Mary, Des Plaines, Illinois
1944-1947	Teacher, Grade 5: Corpus Christi, Columbus, Ohio
1947-1948	Teacher, Grade 7: St. Mary, Des Plaines, Illinois
1948-1949	Teacher, Grade 5: Corpus Christi, Columbus, Ohio
1949-1950	Teacher, Grade 5: Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Ohio
1950-1951	Teacher, Grades 6, 7: St. Raymond, Joliet, Illinois
1951-1955	Teacher, Grade 7: Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Ohio
1955-1956	Teacher, Grade 8: Immaculate Conception, Toledo, Ohio
1956-1957	Teacher, Grade 8: Corpus Christi, St. Mary, Columbus, Ohio
1957-1961	Teacher, Grade 8, Superior and Principal: St. Mary Magdelene, Columbus, Ohio
1961-1963	Superior and Principal: St. Mary Magdelene, Columbus, Ohio
1963-1964	Teacher, Grade 8: Sacred Heart Englewood, Chicago, Illinois
1964-1967	Teacher, Grade 8 and Principal: Sacred Heart Englewood, Chicago, Illinois
1967-1969	Superior and Principal: Sacred Heart Englewood, Chicago, Illinois
1969-1972	Teacher, Grade 6: SS. Peter and Paul, Naperville, Illinois
1972-1973	Teacher, Grade 8: St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, Illinois
1973-1980	Teacher, Grades 4-7: Green Creek, Effingham, Illinois
1980-1981	Teacher: St. Joseph, Elgin, Illinois
1981-1983	Teacher: St. Mary, Bloomington, Illinois
1983-1984	Librarian: Annunciata, Chicago, Illinois
1984-1989	Teacher, Grade 4: Annunciata, Chicago, Illinois
1989-1990	Teacher, Adult Education: St. Francis Academy, Joliet, Illinois
1990-1995	Teacher, Adult Education: St. Joseph School, Rockdale, Illinois
1995-2002	Tutor: Motherhouse Education Program, Joliet, Illinois
2002-2005	Retired

<i>Wake:</i>	Thursday, February 1, 2007, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Wake Service:</i>	Thursday, February 1, 2007, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Thursday, February 1, 2007, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Friday, February 2, 2007, leaving Our Lady of Angels at (9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
<i>Interment:</i>	S8-L6-G5 Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents James P. McKeon and Della Costello McKeon, brothers, James P. McKeon, Joseph P. (Maria) McKeon, Thomas (Sharon) McKeon and sister Bernadine (John) Seyller.
<i>Survived by:</i>	Sisters, Kathleen McKeon Wilkeson and Dolores Eifel.

*Rest in Peace, Sister Mary*