

Sister M. Gerald Mellikant, O.S.F.



Born: November 21, 1908
Parents: John and Maria (Hrizi) Mellikant
Entered from: St. Francis DeSales, Chicago, IL
Postulancy: September 8, 1931
Novitiate: August 12, 1932
Profession: August 12, 1934

Died: Thursday, October 30, 1997 at approximately 4:00 a.m. at
 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Ministry:

1934 - 1942 Sts. Peter and Paul, Leonore, IL, Grades 1, 2, 3
 1942 - 1943 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Prefect of Primary Grade School boys
 1943 - 1958 Sts. Peter and Paul, Leonore, IL, Grades 1, 2, 3, 4
 1958 - 1960 St. Mary, Rock Island, IL, Grades 1, 2
 1960 - 1963 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 1
 1963 - 1966 St. Rita, Aurora, IL, Grade 2
 1966 - 1967 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 1
 1967 - 1969 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 2
 1969 - 1974 St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL, Grade 2
 1974 - 1975 Annunciation, Aurora, IL, Grade 3
 1975 - 1983 Holy Family, Joliet, IL, Grade 1
 1983 - 1989 St. Francis Academy Residence, Retired
 1989 - 1997 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL Monday, November 3, 1997
 2-7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
 Monday, November 3, 1997 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Tuesday, November 4, 1997 leaving Our Lady of Angels at
 9:30 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8-L346-G6

Survived by: her sister Ann (Richard - deceased) Schaser of Grand Junction, MI
 and nieces and nephews

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

Sister Mary Gerald was born in Chicago, Illinois on November 28, 1908 to Maria and John Millikant. In Baptism she was given the name, Mary Teresa. She attended elementary school at St. Francis De Sales Parish in Chicago's Eastside together with her sisters, Elizabeth, Julia, Catherine, Helen and Ann, and her two brothers, Stephen and John.

When Mary was a young teenager, two of her sisters came to the convent in Joliet. In 1923, her older sister Elizabeth became Sister M. Lea and in 1926, her younger sister Julia became Sister M. Leon. When Mary was 22 years old, she also came to Joliet to become a Sister. In writing of her own vocation, Mary wrote, "I prayed very hard that God would send me a good vocation. It was just after a severe illness of my dear mother, that I promised Our Dear Lord, that I was willing to give my entire life to Him and consecrate myself to His service." After her mother's recovery, and with her mother's consent, Mary also became a postulant in Joliet on September 8, 1931. The following August, she received a new name of Sister M. Gerald.

Following first profession of vows, Sister Gerald began her many years as a primary teacher at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Leonore, Illinois. Sister Gerald continued to teach in various schools in Illinois and at Corpus Christi in Columbus, Ohio. In 1983, after completing eight years at Holy Family School in Joliet, Sister Gerald brought her days of formal classroom teaching to a close. Her love for her students and their families was evident in all she did. Her spirit of gentle caring for others continued in her retirement years, living at St. Francis Academy Residence and at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. In so many ways she sought to be of service to others: by delivering mail, passing treats of candy and other goodies to those she met, by writing letters for others and running errands as needed. She moved quickly and quietly as she went about doing good for others. "My health is good," she would often tell people. "I don't take any medication, but every day I have a piece of chocolate."

Often she would send others on their way, wishing them a safe journey home. She would bid the Sisters in her area a peaceful night before she went off to bed each night. It was after a day of usual routine of being there for others that Sister Gerald had a peaceful and a safe journey home to God. When the Sisters missed Sister Gerald at the morning Mass they went and found her still in bed, having died during the very early hours of the morning of October 30, 1997. Looking around her room, her friends remembered how she had invited them during these last weeks to see her room and notice how everything was in order, carefully stored in matching boxes and arranged neatly on her shelves. So it was that her life on earth came to a peaceful close.

Sister Gerald, we thank you for your many kindnesses and for the gift of prayer for each of us. Remember us, now, your Franciscan Sisters, your family, your former pupils, and pray to Mary and Jesus that many others may also hear and answer God's call to religious life. May you now enjoy God's loving kindness for all eternity. Amen. Alleluia.

