



## *Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate*

Late in the afternoon of February 21, Sister Anna Marie Metz was sitting quietly in her room. Although she regularly attended the 4 o'clock Mass, she was not feeling well enough go that day. During that Mass Annie was peacefully invited to share in the heavenly banquet that the Lord had prepared. No fanfare here on earth, but heavenly rejoicing to be sure! Just like her, quiet, private, not wanting any fuss.

We now celebrate her new life and begin by recalling her life on earth. Anna Marie was born on April 6, 1925, to Leo and Louise (Thielen) Metz in Chicago, Illinois. Louise Metz died three days after giving birth to Anna, her first child. Anna's godmother and aunt, Frances Jaskowiak (Metz) assisted her father in caring for Anna until he remarried. Leo and Marjorie (Barber) Metz had three more children: Frederick, Veronica and May.

The Metz family were members of St. Bartholomew's parish in Chicago where Anna was baptized and attended grade school. After graduating from Foreman High School, she worked a few years before asking to enter the postulancy of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate in 1948. She was received into the novitiate and was given the name Sister Mary Leonissa. Her father, Leo, was undoubtedly very proud of his daughter.

Sister Leonissa made her first vows on August 12, 1951. In her request for vows she wrote: "I never realized what Community life really meant until I found such true companionship in my fellow Sisters." She would continue to live life in community as she taught at St. Francis Xavier in Chicago pronouncing her final profession in 1954.

Then came her call to what she termed "the missionary life." She writes about this call more than twenty years later: "The first call came as a commission in 1954, the day after my final vows. Mother Immaculate called my name last of all the Sisters receiving their obediences at that time: 'To St. Mary's, Fairfield, Alabama, Sister Leonissa.' What a shock! And yet, what an honor, too." And she continued: "Now, more than twenty years later, choosing my own response with discernment, I have returned to the South." All together she would spend eight years in Alabama. Summing up her experience she writes: "the beauty of the landscape, the foothills of Appalachia, and my love for these special children." After her second time in Alabama, her missionary heart was also touched by two years in Bayfield, Wisconsin, where she grew to love beautiful Lake Superior as she taught remedial reading to the Indian children there.

# Alleluia!



## *Sister Anna Marie Metz, OSF*

In the intervening years, Anna taught first, second or third grade in schools in Illinois and Ohio. Anna Marie never stopped trying to be of service and tutored in a variety of venues, both children and adults. Where ever she was, whatever she did, she did it quietly with a ready smile. Her gentle demeanor was why her students in Alabama "would run up after class for a hug as a reward."

How would Anna Marie describe herself? A teacher? That appears to be what she did all her life. Annie gives us a clue into her quiet, gentle self as she writes: "Because I am a dreamer with artistic leanings, I have always enjoyed writing poetry. Simple verses that rhyme have been a delightful pastime, even before I entered religious life." One of her poems may be self-revelatory.

*The clover means so much to me  
Because it is grown  
Very much in seclusion.  
Although it's greatly known.  
No one picks it for a shrine,  
But in its quiet sweetness  
God looks upon it lovingly  
Because it has such meekness.*

And maybe, Annie this is your last word to us, a poem entitled: "Rejoice"

*Rejoice! For the joyful day is nigh.  
Rejoice! Sing the angels from on high.  
The Savior of the world has come  
Our King, the Most Holy One.  
He blesses us and wants us near.  
Come, do not hesitate or fear.  
For He loves us one and all.  
Listen, can't you hear His call?*

Yes, dear Sister! We do rejoice with you. We know you hear those angels now. Your King has come. You've heard his call and responded without fear. Help us to never hesitate but always to believe, as you did, that He blesses us and wants us near. Amen. Alleluia

## *Sister Anna Marie Metz, OSF*

*April 6, 1925 — February 21, 2015*

<i>Born:</i>	April 6, 1925
<i>Parents:</i>	Leo Metz and Louise (Thielen) Metz
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 11, 1948
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1949
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1951
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 13, 1954
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	February 21, 2015

### **Ministry History**

1951-1953	Teacher: Grade 3, St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, Illinois
1954-1957	Teacher: Grade 3, St. Mary, Fairfield, Alabama
1957-1961	Teacher: Grades 2 and 3, St. Procopius, Chicago
1961-1967	Teacher: Grade 1, St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio
1967-1968	Teacher: Grade 1, St. Boniface, Chicago
1968-1969	Teacher: Grade 2, Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago
1969-1970	House Mother: Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, Illinois
1970-1973	Teacher: Grade 1, Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, Ohio
1973-1974	Teacher's Aide: Holy Family, Joliet
1974-1975	Tutor/Receptionist/Substitute Teacher: Motherhouse, Joliet
1975-1976	Teacher's Aide: St. Michael, Sigel, Illinois
1976-1977	Teacher's Aide: St. Joseph, Joliet
1977-1982	Teacher: Grade 2, St. Mary, Fairfield, Alabama
1982-1984	Teacher: Reading, Holy Family, Bayfield, Wisconsin
1984-1985	Participant: Wellspring, Westmont, Illinois
1985-1987	Community Service: Motherhouse, Joliet
1987-1988	Volunteer Services: Motherhouse (Library), Spanish Center, Will County Jail (Library), Joliet
1988-1989	Tutor: Spanish Center, Joliet
1989-1993	Tutor: ESL, Spanish Center, Joliet
1993-1994	Tutor: Adult ESL, Spanish Center, Joliet
1998-1999	Community Service: Motherhouse, Joliet
1999-2003	Community Service, ESL: Joliet Township High School, Joliet
2003-2005	Community Service: Guardian Angel 2 South, Joliet
2005-2015	Community Service

<i>Wake:</i>	Thursday, February 26, 2015, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Thursday, February 26, 2015, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Thursday, February 26, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Friday, February 27, 2015, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 8:30 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 360, Grave 12, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	By her parents, Leo Metz and Louise (Thielen) Metz

*Rest in Peace, Sister Anna Marie*