

Sister M. Celsa Mlinarchan, O.S.F.



Born: November 13, 1904
 Parents: Stephen and Amalia (Kaspar) Mlinarchan
 Entered from: St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA
 Postulancy: January 6, 1929
 Novitiate: August 12, 1929
 Profession: August 12, 1931

Died: Sunday, March 8, 1998 at 7:00 a.m.
 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Ministry:

- 1931-37 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grades 3, 4, 5
- 1937-40 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grades 4, 5, 7
- 1940-42 Sacred Heart Huron St., Chicago, IL, Grades 5, 6
- 1942-44 SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Grade 8
- 1944-45 St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL, Grade 8
- 1945-47 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grade 6
- 1947-48 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 7
- 1948-50 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 7
- 1950-51 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 6
- 1951-52 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Grade 6
- 1952-57 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grades 6,7
- 1957-59 St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL,
Grade 8, Superior and Principal
- 1959-62 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 6
- 1962-64 St. John, Joliet, IL, Grade 8
- 1964-66 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 8
- 1966-76 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 8
- 1976-80 St. Coleman, Pompano Beach, FL,
Grade 8, Tutor, Substitute
- 1980-83 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Tutoring
- 1983-98 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Wednesday,
 March 11, 2-7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
 Wednesday, March 11, at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Thursday, March 12 leaving Our Lady of Angels at
 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
 S8-L338-G12

Survived by: Nieces and nephews

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

Sister Celsa Mlinarchan was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on November 13, 1904. She was the seventh of nine children born to Stephen and Amalia (Kaspar) Mlinarchan. Baptized at St. Stephen Church in Johnstown, she received the name Agnes Bertha, and was called Bertha. Edith and Bernie were born after her, and she was preceded by Steve, Emma, Mathilda, John, Margaret and a baby who died in infancy. Young Bertha attended the grammar school at St. Stephen parish. Following graduation she completed two years of commercial school.

As a young girl, Bertha was inspired by letters written from Calcutta by a missionary, Sister Mathilda, a relative of her mother's. These letters led Bertha to pursue Religious Life. On January 6, 1929, Bertha was received as a postulant in the Franciscan Congregation in Joliet. Bertha was received into the Novitiate on August 12, 1929 and given the name Sister Mary Celsa. It was during the first year of novitiate that Sister Celsa suffered the sadness of her mother's death. Her parents had always been a source of strength and support to Sister Celsa. In a letter to Mother Thomasine on May 6, 1934, she expressed her gratitude, "I have reason to thank first of all God for the grand privilege of choosing me as his spouse; my community, my second mother, for accepting me as her child; and my loving parents for bringing so many sacrifices in order to assist me in following my religious vocation."

Following her first profession on August 12, 1931, Sister Celsa began her teaching ministry at St. Stephen Parish in Streator, Illinois. She taught in many other schools in Illinois, Ohio and Florida as well as in her home parish of St. Stephen, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Most of her years were spent with junior high students. Her students remember her justice and fairness. She towed a hard line, but the students knew what she expected.

In addition to creating a classroom of quality learning, she involved students in extracurricular activities. Her students of the '50's in Des Plaines recall the many Sunday afternoons she and Sister Doris would gather the seventh and eighth graders in the old gym to learn the social graces of dancing, including ballroom dancing, circle dances and square dances. Sister Celsa worked with patrol guards, magazine drives, debate teams, spelling bees and many other activities. She was always an avid sports fan and also enjoyed stock shows and travel. She was also grateful for the opportunity to visit various countries in Europe.

In 1980 Sister Celsa came to the Motherhouse in Joliet, where she continued to tutor and to be involved in various activities. In 1983 she moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. In late autumn, Sister Celsa had a fall and was hospitalized. Testing revealed a tumor at the base of the brain. Sister Celsa tried to live her life one day at a time. On March 8, 1998, as the Gospel story of Transfiguration was proclaimed in churches throughout the world, Sister Celsa joined her God on that holy mountain.

Sister Celsa we are grateful for the many years you have served as an energetic Catholic educator. May your life be an inspiration to others to teach and to bring the truth to others. Pray for us now as you enjoy forever the wisdom of Jesus, the greatest of teachers. May you know God's love forever. Amen. Alleluia.

