

Alleluia!

Sister Ann James Murray, O.S.F.



Sister Ann James Murray was born on December 10, 1924, to James and Ann Masterson Murray in Chicago, Illinois. Baptized Elizabeth Ann at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Chicago, she was one of three children. Her remaining siblings are her brother James Murray from Aptos, California and her sister Theresa McGuckin from Springfield, Illinois.

Elizabeth Ann, or Betty as many called her, graduated from St. Raymond Grade School and St. Francis Academy. She attended the College of St. Francis for one year before entering the convent. It has been said by many that some of her high school classmates "prayed her into the religious life." Betty came to the convent and entered the postulancy on September 7, 1943. On August 12, 1944, she became a novice and received the name, Sister Ann James.

After professing her vows on August 12, 1946, Sister Ann James graduated from the College of St. Francis with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She also received a Master's Degree from St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, was presented with a "Career Achievement Award" by St. Francis Academy, and furthered her education at Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California. The College of St. Francis presented her with an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in May of 1984.

In 1947, Sister Ann James began teaching at St. Clement High School in Chicago, Illinois. Her teaching career continued until 1972 and brought her to many different schools, including St. Francis Academy (two stints) in Joliet, Illinois; St. Peter High School in Mansfield, Ohio and Marybrook Academy in Maumee, Ohio. In 1972, Sister Ann James began her ministry of administration by serving on our congregation's leadership teams. From 1972-1976, she served as an Area Coordinator and from 1976-1984 she served as President, or Superior General, of our congregation. During part of this time, in addition to her work on/with the Governing Board, Sister Ann James served as Vice-Chair of LCWR Region 8. As stated in her pledge to the congregation

in 1972, when she was first commissioned to serve on the Governing Boards, Sister Ann James wrote, "I hope to be a spirit leader, emphasizing my belief in pluriformity, fostering the desire for deeper meaning of community, mission, and personal dedication, and showing concern for the individual dignity and responsible freedom of my sisters." We know and have witnessed these words as living truth. She was indeed very dedicated and caring about each sister as well as all those with whom she lived and worked during these years.

Following her years in congregation leadership, Sister Ann James became a Pastoral Associate at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Naperville, Illinois where she ministered for 18 years. We all know how hard she worked and how loved she was in this capacity. She has touched so many lives and looked at each day as a privilege, as was stated by her as she said, "It is a privilege to be invited to walk the faith journey with so many wonderful people, to be part of the life of such a variety of persons. And only God knows what the next ministry turn in my life will be."

And so, on the morning of September 29, 2003, the Feast of the Holy Angels, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, the angels came to escort her to her next ministry in heaven with all her friends, relatives and sisters in community who have gone before her to celebrate the wonder of God. We thank you, Sister Ann James, for your generosity, your loving care and the enthusiasm you shared with each of us. As you begin eternity with the God you loved and served so faithfully, remember us, your family, your friends and your Franciscan Sisters. Amen! Alleluia!

Sister M. Ann James Murray, OSF
 10 December 1924 - 29 September 2003

Born: December 10, 1924; Chicago, IL 830
Parents: James B. Murray and Ann (Masterson) Murray
Entered From: St. Raymond Cathedral Parish, Joliet, IL
Postulancy: September 7, 1943
Novitiate: August 12, 1944
Profession: August 12, 1946
Entered New Life: Monday, September 29, 2003; Our Lady of Angels at 9:30 a.m.

Ministry History

1945 - 1947 Student at CSF; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
 1947 - 1953 Teacher; St. Clement High School, Chicago, IL
 1953 - 1958 Teacher; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
 1958 - 1962 Teacher; St. Peter High School, Mansfield, OH
 1962 - 1964 Teacher; Marybrook Academy, Maumee, OH
 1964 - 1972 Teacher; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
 1972 - 1976 Councilor/Area Coordinator; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
 1976 - 1984 Congregation President; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
 1984 - 1985 Student; Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, CA
 1985 - 2003 Pastoral Associate; St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Naperville, IL
 2003 Retired; Guardian Angel Home Residence, Joliet, IL

Wake: Thursday, October 2, 2003, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Wake Service: Thursday, October 2, 2003, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, October 2, 2003, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Burial: Friday, October 3, 2003; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.
 to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
 S8 - L333 - G3

Survived by: Her sister, Theresa McGuckin (Joseph) and her brother, James B. Murray (Carol), and nieces and nephews.

Rest in Peace, Sister Ann James