



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

Sister Mary Olivieri began life on April 17, 1928, in Mansfield, Ohio, the first born of four children: Nick and Lucy, now deceased, and Rose, now Sister Rose, RSM, who resides in Fremont, Ohio, at St. Bernadine Retirement Home. Sister Mary's parents, Joseph and Dominica, were both born in Italy and spoke only Italian in the family home. Mary's early family life was enriched by Italian customs and culture as well as a deep faith shared by her parents. Mary and Rose fondly recalled their yearly trips to Carey, Ohio, for the Feast of the Assumption of Mary where they spent two days at the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation. Maybe this parental devotion was the motive in naming their first born Mary.

Mary's love for cooking was passed on by her mother who also taught her daughter the art of gardening. Her cooking skills have been appreciated by many of the Sisters with whom she lived. The faith life fostered in her family and her years at St. Peter's School in Mansfield may have been the seeds of her call to become a Sister of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate. Arriving in Joliet in 1947 as a postulant, Mary's dream was short-lived. Her mother's illness made it necessary for her to return home to help with her younger siblings. After her mother's death in August, 1948, she began working and even bought herself a car. Those who knew her well also knew about her love for driving! They would also know about her determination and decisiveness to do what she knew had to be done!

But the Lord again began to speak in the depths of her heart. She responded to the call and re-entered the postulancy in January, 1954. This time her dream would be fulfilled. In August, 1954, Mary became a novice, Sister Mary Dominica, taking the name of her beloved mother. First vows followed in 1956 and final vows in 1959.

Sister Mary Dominica would receive her bachelor's degree from the College of St. Francis and in subsequent years, post-graduate work would be done at the Universities of Dayton, Ohio State and Toledo.

Her ministry history reveals a woman of multiple talents. The years 1956 to 1981 found Mary teaching in several grade schools in Ohio, Illinois and California. She also assumed the principal's role in several grade schools. She had a special love for math and her high school teaching, again in Illinois and California, allowed her to share this love.

A special mention needs to be made regarding her ministry in California. Mary's father had traveled out to California, after having spent some time in Florida, in hopes of finding a warmer climate than Ohio had offered. Once again, illness

Alleluia!



Sister Mary Olivieri, OSF

struck the family and Joseph was in need of care. Mary went to San Diego and began teaching at St. Charles and caring for her father. When it became evident that her father needed to go back to Mansfield, Sister Rose also came out to California. How would they get their father back home? Sister Mary went to a local car dealer and asked his help. He agreed to have her drive a car from California to the East Coast, stopping in Mansfield to bring her father home. Mary did all the driving on this trip! Evidence of her determination, devotion to family and love for driving!

From 1981 until 2000, Sister Mary once again taught for five of those years along with being principal for four. And it is noteworthy to see that two of those years were spent at Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio, which must have brought back many family memories. Mary's talent with figures led her to minister in several places as bookkeeper. A new talent showed itself during her five years with the IHM Sisters in Monroe, Michigan, where she served in a variety of positions related to communications.

Throughout her life, Sister Mary, like her namesake, "pondered" God's will for her in her heart. She was her own person and followed through with determination once she made a decision. An example of this came when she was struck with a debilitating disease, Guillain-Barré syndrome. Mary's determination and decisive nature once again came to her rescue and she struggled to become independent again. Her family recalls that their offers of assistance were often met with a simple, "I can manage!" And manage she did as she continued to minister in a variety of venues. Finally, when Mary arrived at her last ministry, Mohun Hall, she entered totally into life there. One Sister remarked, "She won our hearts!" Mary never went to an activity without inviting another person to go with her. That was her ministry of presence!

Today, the Queenship of Mary, is your feast day, Sister Mary O. In your own quiet and determined way, like Mary of Nazareth, you brought a Divine Presence to all who knew you. And our God has done great things through you!

Sister Mary Olivieri

April 17, 1928 — August 17, 2014

Born: April 17, 1928
Parents: Joseph Olivieri and Dominica (Travalgini) Olivieri
Postulancy: January 30, 1954
Novitiate: August 13, 1954
First Profession: August 12, 1956
Final Profession: August 13, 1959
Entered New Life: August 17, 2014

Ministry History

1956-1957 Teacher: Grade 3, Immaculate Conception, Toledo, Ohio
1957-1959 Teacher: Grade 2, St. Jude, Cleveland, Ohio
1959-1965 Teacher: Grades 4, 5, 7, Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Ohio
1965-1967 Superintendent/Principal, Teacher: Grades 7, 8, Sacred Heart, Chicago, Illinois
1967-1970 Superintendent/Principal, Teacher: Grades 7, 8, St. Francis de Sales, Toledo
1970-1971 Principal: St. Francis de Sales, Toledo
1971-1972 Teacher: Grade 8, St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio
1972-1973 Teacher: Grade 8, St. Cecilia, Columbus
1973-1976 Staff: Business Office, Motherhouse, Joliet, Illinois
1976-1977 Teacher: Math, Central Catholic High School, Toledo
1977-1978 Parish Administration: Sacred Heart, Chicago
1978-1979 Teacher: St. Charles, San Diego, California
1979-1980 Teacher: Math, Notre Dame High School, Riverside, California
1980-1981 Teacher/Tutor/Ministry to the sick and elderly: St. Francis de Sales, Riverside, California
1981-1982 Principal/Coordinator of CCD: St. Michael, Fremont, Michigan
1982-1983 Participant: Wellsprings, Westmont, Illinois
1983 Teacher/Part-time Parish Ministry: St. Vincent de Paul, Toledo
1983-1984 Bookkeeper: St. Bernadine, Fremont, Ohio
1984-1986 Principal/Teacher: Our Lady of Consolation, Carey, Ohio
1986-1987 Driver: St. Mary, Columbus
1987 Secretary/Bookkeeper: St. Benedict, Highland Park, Michigan
1987-1989 Office Manager: St. Benedict, Highland Park, Michigan
1989-1991 Principal: St. Vincent de Paul Grade School, Toledo
1991-1992 Secretary/Printer: SSIHM, Monroe, Michigan
1992-1996 Communications Assistant: SSIHM, Monroe, Michigan
1996-1997 Community Office Manager/Communications Assistant: SSIHM, Monroe
1997-1998 Secretary: Diocesan Office of Social Services, Columbus, Ohio
1998-2000 Administrative Assistant: Ombudsman Program, Diocesan Office, Columbus
2000-2001 Tutor: Columbus
2001-2004 Volunteer, Tutor: Outreach, Columbus
2004-2005 Volunteer/Paper Work/Guidance: Bishop Ready High School, Columbus
2005-2006 Bishop Ready High School, Columbus
2006-2012 Volunteer Outreach: Seton North, Columbus
2012-2014 Community Service

Wake: Friday, August 22, 2014, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Prayer Service: Friday, August 22, 2014, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Mass of Christian Burial: Friday, August 22, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Burial: Saturday, August 23, 2014, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 8:30 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
Interment: Section 8, Lot 361, Grave 9, Resurrection Cemetery
Predeceased by: By her parents, Joseph Olivieri and Dominica (Travalgini) Olivieri, her brother Nick and her sister, Lucy Eckstein
Survived by: Her sister, Sister Rose Olivieri, RSM, and her sister-in-law, Barbara

Rest in Peace, Sister Mary