

# Alleluia!

## Sister M. Joan Preising, OSF



Sister Joan Preising was born in Cleveland, Ohio, to George and Veronica (Cukr) Preising on January 18, 1902. She was baptized at St. Procop Church and was given the name Ruth Veronica Mary. Shortly after her birth her mother died, and she was raised by her Aunt Mary, who remained very special to her all her life. After her father's remarriage, Ruth was gifted with four brothers, three of whom preceded her in death. Her brother John is still living. Her family also consists of many nieces, nephews and cousins who are with her in spirit today.

Ruth graduated from St. Procop School and Ursuline Academy in Cleveland. When she asked to join our community, she was originally told that she had to wait because of her birthmark, a hurt she bore and shared many times in her storytelling. After working for a few years, she was accepted as a postulant on September 5, 1921, and was a dedicated, faithful member of our congregation for over 86 years. Joan shared in one of her writings that she was the first postulant of Mother Angela, and the two of them worked in tandem to provide printing press knowledge for the boys at Guardian Angel Home so that they would have a marketable skill as they left the Home. At the time of her reception, Ruth received the name, Sister Mary Joan.

After professing her temporary and final vows, Joan began her teaching ministry and continued her education. She earned her bachelors degree from De Paul University and her masters degree and doctorate in chemistry from the University of Illinois. In addition, Sister Joan received many certificates from Argonne National Laboratory and studied at additional universities. She was also the recipient of many prestigious awards during the course of her lifetime.

After teaching a few years at St. Mary High School in Columbus, Ohio, Joan began her long career at the College of St. Francis, where she predominantly taught chemistry and other science classes from 1939-1969. During these years in addition to her teaching, she wrote many scientific articles, such as *Lab Exercises in General Chemistry* and *Why Study Physics?* She also wrote a memoir in the form of a novel titled *All the Days of My Life*. All four of her brothers were present at her book signing. Sister Joan was very involved in life at the College and did all that she could to make the students welcome.

Following her years at the College of St. Francis, Sister Joan moved along with Sister Aniceta to Crosier Seminary in Onamia, Minnesota, where she taught from 1969-1975. This provided a new opportunity for the seminarians since this was the first time that chemistry was offered in their seminary curriculum. In addition to teaching, Sister Joan was also a member of the Rector's Council for many years. After leaving Minnesota, Sister Joan wanted to continue teaching, and she became a tutor/part-time teacher at the Motherhouse, at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and at the Will County Jail. Even after Sister Joan retired to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in 1981, she accumulated thousands of hours of volunteer work there doing whatever she could to help.

Sister Joan was very loved, very respected and well remembered throughout her many years. She often had visitors, or received cards or letters from her friends and former students. Dr. Therese Southgate remained a cherished and devoted friend and has kept in close contact.

Sister Joan was very dedicated to St. Raphael. You may remember a few years back that Sister Joan commissioned Sister Kay Francis to make a sketch of St. Raphael for a bookmarks/holy card of this favorite saint. We each received a copy. In her own way, Joan has prayed for each of us.

We thank the administration, staff, and residents here at OLA who cared for her needs these 20 some years that she was a resident. We thank in a special way Sisters Maurice White who wrote so many letters for her and Rosemary Winter who talked with her and sat by her side so often. We pray for all our sisters, associates, friends and family who will miss her. May Sister Joan be enjoying clear sight, perfect hearing and all good things forever. Amen. Alleluia.

*Sister M. Joan Preising, OSF*  
*January 18, 1902 — October 22, 2007*

<i>Born:</i>	January 18, 1902
<i>Parents:</i>	George and Mary (Cukr) Preising
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 9, 1921
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1922
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1924
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 13, 1927
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	October 22, 2007

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**Ministry History**

1924—1926	Teacher, St. Francis Academy—Latin, History, English, Botany: Joliet
1926—1935	Teacher, St. Mary High School—Physics, Chemistry, Algebra, Geometry, Latin: Columbus, Ohio
1935—1939	Student, Graduate School: University of Illinois, Urbana
1939—1969	Instructor, Chemistry: College of St. Francis, Joliet
1969—1977	Instructor, Chemistry: Crosier Seminary
1977—1978	Special Ministry: Motherhouse, Joliet
1978—1980	Teacher: St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Lockport, Illinois
1980—1981	Tutor: Center for Correctional Concerns, Joliet
1981—2007	Retired

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<i>Wake:</i>	Thursday, October 25, 2007, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Wake Service:</i>	Thursday, October 25, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Thursday, October 25, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Friday, October 26, 2007, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
<i>Interment:</i>	S8-L6-G9 Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents George and Mary (Cukr) Preising, half-brothers George, Robert and Harold
<i>Survived by:</i>	Brother John, nieces, nephews and cousins

*Rest in Peace, Sister Joan*