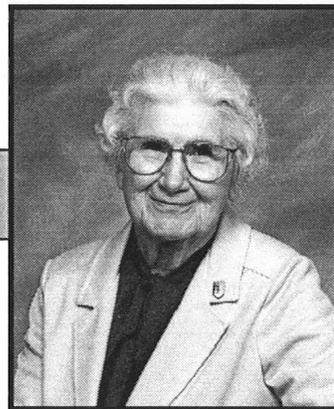


Alleluia!

Sister Angela Radak, OSF



Sister Angela Radak was born in Chicago, Illinois, on May 2, 1913, the oldest of three children born to the late Anna (Novakovitz) and Stephen Radakovitz, both Austrian immigrants. Her younger siblings, Helen and Henry, are deceased.

Angela was baptized May 10, 1913, at St. Aloysius Church in Chicago. As a youngster, she attended St. Boniface School and then completed two years of commercial studies at St. Clement High School. On September 28, 1930, 17 year old Angela entered the postulancy of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate in Joliet, Illinois, and continued her high school studies, eventually graduating from St. Francis Academy. Upon entrance into the novitiate in August 1931, she received the name Sister Mary Lizette. She chose to return to her Baptismal name, Angela, when that option was offered in the late 1960's.

As a student at the College of St. Francis in Joliet, Angela pursued studies in English, Economics and Philosophy. Later she earned a Master of Arts in Religious Studies from the Catholic University of America and received postgraduate education at Loyola University (Chicago) and the University of Notre Dame (Indiana). Her years of study prepared her well as an educator and administrator. Her first teaching assignment took her back to St. Clement's in Chicago as a high school teacher (1934-1942). Sister Angela held numerous administrative positions including Principal of Marybrook Academy, Maumee, Ohio (1943-52/1953-56); Director of Aspirants at St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet (1957-1962), while also teaching at both St. Francis Academy and the College of St. Francis; and then served as a Councilor on the leadership team of the Joliet Franciscans (1962-1972). During her time in Community Administration, Sister Angela joined Mother Borromeo Mack on a visit to our newly founded mission in Santa Helena, Brazil, and returned to the States with an even greater zeal to serve the many poor people she had met in Brazil.

Subsequently, she began to collect clothing and other necessities for the Brazilian people and was elated each time she had filled enough barrels for a shipment to Santa Helena.

When Sister Angela concluded her final four years on the Governing Board in 1972, she asked to be considered for temporary membership, and then core membership, at St. Clare House of Prayer in Kankakee. After one year at St. Clare's, Angela wrote: "I am convinced that God has called me to a deeper life of prayer and so I am grateful that the Congregation has sponsored a House of Prayer where we can live out that call...Here at St. Clare's, I feel that I have 'come home'...I find the place and the living situation eminently favorable to the type of service we try to give. I would wish all our sisters could have an equally favorable situation and community." When asked if she enjoyed her ministry, Angela exclaimed, "Dream of my life fulfilled!" Sister Angela embraced her call to "prayer and prayer-related works" for 33 years at St. Clare House of Prayer before illness made it necessary for her to move to Our Lady of Angels in Joliet. She continued to live out her Franciscan vocation, desiring to acknowledge declining health, surgery and physical frailty as stepping-stones to ultimate union with her faithful God, who called her home to heaven at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 17, 2004.

Sister Angela, we thank you for your 74 years as a Joliet Franciscan, for your leadership, your friendship and your deep spirit of prayer. As you begin your eternity in the presence of the God you served so faithfully, may you remember us, your family, your friends, your Franciscan sisters. Amen! Alleluia!