



## *Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate*

Catherine Leona Renschen was born in Sigel, Illinois, on April 4, 1918, and was baptized at St. Michael's Church in Sigel on April 6, 1918. She was one of eight children born to Elizabeth (Wente) Renschen and Bernard Renschen. Eventually the family joined St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Teutopolis, Illinois, where Catherine attended elementary school. She received her high school diploma from St. Francis Academy, now Joliet Catholic Academy.

In November, 1936, Catherine applied for admission to the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, convinced she had a vocation to religious life. She was readily accepted to begin her year of postulancy on November 28, 1936. On June 12, 1937, Catherine asked to enter the novitiate of this Congregation. She was admitted and began two years of spiritual and academic training and education. She received the habit and her new religious name of Sister Mary Rosita on August 12, 1939. Two years later she would make her temporary commitment and, after three years, would profess her final vows.

Throughout her early years in this Congregation, Sister Rosita was considered to be respectful, charitable, upright and obedient. In a letter to our Superior General she states: "I want to be a true Franciscan Sister of Mary Immaculate. I will, from now on until death summons me, live and strive earnestly to do my duty . . . and trust in Jesus always."

Sometime later, Sister Rosita received a Bachelor's Degree from the College of St. Francis, now the University of St. Francis. She earned a Degree as Master of Education from DePaul University in 1969.

Sister Rosita's years of ministry included teaching in many parochial schools in Illinois. She also served

# Alleluia!



*Sister M. Rosita Renschen, OSF*

as principal and teacher in the public school system in Lillyville, Illinois. Sister Rosita loved her years as an educator. When she had to return to Joliet, she served as a tutor in the Motherhouse Education Programs.

Sister Rosita valued religious life. She wrote: "I definitely feel and believe strongly in the fact of religious life – sharing in community and the fact that we need each other." She also served as Pastoral Minister at St. Mary's Parish in Bloomington, Illinois, where she ministered to the sick and elderly.

Always willing to help out where needed, Sister Rosita shared her spirit of unselfishness with others. She was quiet, reserved, and deliberate in thought and action. She participated in community gatherings and meetings whenever possible. We will surely miss her quiet presence, but we know she is with us in spirit.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sister Rosita's sister, Bertha Renschen and to her brother, Roger Renschen. We keep them in our hearts and prayers along with the deceased members of their family.

Sister Rosita, may the Lord bless you with the deepest peace and joy as he welcomes you into Eternal Life. Amen. Alleluia

## *Sister M. Rosita Renschen, OSF*

*April 4, 1918 — November 6, 2008*

*Born:* April 4, 1918  
*Parents:* Bernard and Elizabeth (Wente) Renschen  
*Postulancy:* November 28, 1936  
*Novitiate:* August 12, 1937  
*First Profession:* August 12, 1939  
*Final Profession:* August 13, 1942  
*Entered New Life:* November 6, 2008

### **Ministry History**

1939-1941 Student: St. Francis Preparatory, Joliet, Illinois  
1941-1947 Teacher: Grades 2, 3, 4; Sacred Heart-Englewood, Chicago, Illinois  
1947-1950 Teacher: Grades 2, 3; St. Boniface, Chicago  
1950-1953 Teacher: Grade 4; St. Mary, Des Plaines, Illinois  
1953-1954 Teacher: Grades 5 and 6, St. Clement, Chicago  
1954-1955 Teacher: Grade 5, SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago  
1955-1956 Teacher: Grade 6, St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio  
1956-1957 Teacher: Grade 7, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago  
1957-1958 Teacher: Grades 3, 4; St. Michael, Sigel, Illinois  
1958-1963 Teacher: Grade 3, 5, 6, 7; St. Paul the Apostle, Joliet  
1963-1965 Teacher: Grade 7, St. Joseph, Joliet  
1965-1970 Superintendent/Principal, Teacher: Grades 5, 6, 7, 8; Sacred Heart, Lillyville, Illinois  
  
1970-1972 Principal: Sacred Heart, Lillyville  
1972-1973 Teacher: Grade 5; Lansing, Illinois  
1973-1974 Receptionist: Motherhouse, Joliet  
1974-1975 Librarian: St. Rita, Aurora, Illinois  
1975 Teacher: Grades 4, 5; St. Ludmilla, Chicago  
1975-1976 Teacher: Grades 4, 5; St. Clement, Chicago  
1976-1977 Parish Ministry: St. Paul, Peotone, Illinois  
1977-1979 Teacher: Grade 4; St. Matthew, Champaign, Illinois  
1979-1980 Tutor: St. Matthew, Champaign  
1980-1981 Receptionist: Motherhouse, Joliet  
1981-1982 Teacher/Parish Ministry: St. Mary, Bloomington, Illinois  
1982-1993 Parish Ministry: St. Mary, Bloomington  
1993-1994 Community Service: Motherhouse, Joliet  
1994-2000 Tutor, Education Programs, Volunteer: Motherhouse, Joliet  
2000-2008 Community Service: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home

*Wake:* Monday, November 10, 2008, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Prayer Service:* Monday, November 10, 2008, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Mass of Christian Burial:* Monday, November 10, 2008, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Burial:* Tuesday, November 11, 2008, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL  
*Interment:* S8-L7-G3 Resurrection Cemetery  
*Predeceased by:* Her parents, Bernard and Elizabeth (Wente) Renschen; her brothers Henry (Patricia) and Ralph; sisters Helen (Ben) Mihlbachler, Celeste (Albert) Willenborg and Rosemary Renschen  
*Survived by:* Her brother Roger (Mary Jane) Renschen; sister Bertha Renschen

*Rest in Peace, Sister Rosita*