

Sister M. Euthele Schlessner, O.S.F. 782



Born: June 28, 1908
Parents: Anton and Clara (Krauss) Schlessner
Entered from: St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL
Postulancy: September 5, 1927
Novitiate: August 12, 1928
Profession: August 12, 1930

Died: Monday, May 24, 1999 at Provena St. Joseph Medical Center
at 2:33 p.m.

Ministry:

1930 - 1934 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Music Teacher, Organist
1934 - 1940 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Music Teacher, Organist
1940 - 1941 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Music Appreciation/Theory, Chorus
1941 - 1947 Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH, Music Teacher, Organist
1947 - 1948 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Music Teacher, Organist
1948 - 1952 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Music Teacher, Organist
1952 - 1954 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Music Teacher, Organist
1954 - 1956 St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH, Catholic Charities
1956 - 1969 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Professor, Sociology Department
1969 - 1973 St. Augustine College, Raleigh, N.C., Professor
1973 - 1975 St. Catherine, Sebring, FL, Organist, Tutor
1975 - 1977 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Secretary to the President
1977 - 1979 Prem's Farm, Sebring, FL, Family Ministry
1979 - 1985 Crosier Seminary, Onamia, MN, Librarian, Book Store Manager
1985 - 1990 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Secretary to Development Committee,
CSF Library - part-time
1990 - 1997 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Secretary/Computer work
Development Office
1997 - 1999 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Thursday, May 27, 1999
2-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Thursday, May 27, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Friday, May 28, 1999 leaving Our Lady of Angels at
9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL,
Section 8, Lot, 336, Grave 4

Survived by: nieces and nephews

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,
life is not ended, but merely changed.*

Sister Euthele was born in Chicago, Illinois on June 28, 1908 to Anton and Clara Krauss Schlessler. On July 19, she was baptized Wilhelmina Anna at St. Teresa Church in Chicago; her family called her Hermine. Together with her two brothers and two sisters, she attended St. Francis Xavier Grammar School and two years of commercial school at St. Francis Xavier.

On September 5, 1927, Hermine became a postulant with the Franciscan Sisters in Joliet. The following August 12, 1928, she received the Franciscan habit as a novice and was given the new name, Sister M. Euthelia (which she later changed to Sister Euthele).

After first profession of vows on August 12, 1930, Sister Euthelia began her ministry as music teacher and organist at St. Mary Parish in Columbus, Ohio; she moved to Corpus Christi Parish in 1934, and to Immaculate Conception Parish in 1941. She also ministered at St. Francis De Sales in Toledo, Ohio and in Illinois at St. Clement Parish, St. Pascal Parish and St. Francis De Sales Parish in Chicago and at St. Francis Academy in Joliet.

In 1953, Sister Euthele began her study at Loyola University in the field of social work, and received a master's degree. She taught at the College of St. Francis from 1956 until 1969. Those who knew her described her as: "respectful, industrious, charitable, humble, and exact."

In the midst of the racial unrest in the nation, Sister Euthele went to Raleigh, North Carolina to teach sociology at St. Augustine College to a predominately African-American student population. She wrote of the respect and regard that she and Sister Emeran received from the student body and the faculty. They enjoyed the beauty of the south, which she described as "Carolina in the springtime is a poet's dream world; beauty abounds everywhere. Azaleas, roses, wisteria, flowering trees are among the variety of gorgeous blooms that meet the eye everywhere. The song 'Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina in the Morning' must have been a springtime inspiration."

After Sister Euthele spent time serving family needs in Sebring, Florida, she returned to the College of St. Francis as secretary to Dr. John C. Orr and in 1979 went on to Crosier Seminary in Onamia, Minnesota to serve as librarian. In 1985, Sister Euthele returned to the Motherhouse in Joliet where she continued to do various secretarial jobs until she retired to Our Lady of Angels in 1997, where she continued to help the sisters in various ways.

On Monday, May 24, 1999, Sister Euthele suffered from dizziness and was taken to Provena St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, where they determined she suffered an aneurysm. She died peacefully, in the presence of her sisters at 2:33 p.m. that same day.

Sister Euthele we are grateful for the richness of your ministry, serving the needs of God's people as you heard God's call. Help us to see the needs in our world today and to respond with a generous heart. May you know the peace of God's love, forever. Amen. Alleluia.

