



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

Sister Magdalene's life began September 26, 1928, in Leonore, Illinois. Her loving parents, Frances Frings Schmitt and Albert Schmitt, brought their daughter into a family which would soon number six children: three daughters - Eleanore, Elaine and Elizabeth Marie (Sister Magdalene) - all now deceased; three sons - Karl and Wiemar, also deceased, and one son still living - Albert Eugene.

Elizabeth Marie, or Betty, as Sister Magdalene was called as a child, also had a great aunt and two cousins in this Congregation: Sisters Otilia Schmitt, Lucita Mueller and Jovita Mizicko respectively. They, too, have preceded Sister Magdalene in death.

Betty's grade school education took place at Evans Central Elementary School and St. Mary's School, both in Wenona, Illinois. She attended Wenona Public High School for two years and completed her secondary education at St. Francis Academy in Joliet, Illinois. She entered the Postulancy of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Mary Immaculate on September 4, 1945.

As a postulant, Betty began to learn what this Franciscan way of life would ask of her. She was more than willing to become immersed in the Franciscan Spirituality of the Congregation, so she asked to receive the habit and to begin two years of preparation for temporary vows. During this time, Betty received the name of Sister Mary Magdalene, by which she would be known until the end of her life.

After professing temporary vows, she began her teaching career. She made final vows on August 12, 1951. She continued studying for a Bachelor's Degree in Science at the College of St. Francis during her summer vacations.

All of Sister Magdalene's teaching years were

Alleluia!



Sister M. Magdalene Schmitt, OSF

devoted to educating first and second graders in Illinois and Ohio, with three years given to teaching fourth graders. Adding up all her years in the classroom leaves us with the astounding number of fifty-four years as an elementary school teacher! There are many stories about her patience, kindness and understanding as she worked with the children. One parishioner from St. Stephen's Parish in Streator stated in a poem about her that "She treats students and servers as if she were their mother, with tender and loving care."

After thirty-three years of teaching at St. Stephen's in Streator, Sister Magdalene retired to Our Lady of Angels where she volunteered as a secretary for four years. When illness began to take her energy away, Sister Magdalene continued to serve where she could - particularly by praying for others. She once stated that "Being able to help others ... makes one feel appreciated and grateful for having a true Franciscan Spirit."

Sister Magdalene's new life in eternity began early in the morning of July 6, 2009. She had lived and died quietly and simply, leaving behind a legacy of devotedness, commitment and generosity. May the Lord bless you, Sister Magdalene, and reward you well for your true Franciscan Spirit.

Amen. Alleluia

Sister M. Magdalene Schmitt, OSF

September 26, 1928 — July 6, 2009

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| <i>Born:</i> | September 26, 1928 |
| <i>Parents:</i> | Albert and Frances (Frings) Schmitt |
| <i>Postulancy:</i> | September 4, 1945 |
| <i>Novitiate:</i> | August 12, 1946 |
| <i>First Profession:</i> | August 12, 1948 |
| <i>Final Profession:</i> | August 12, 1951 |
| <i>Entered New Life:</i> | July 6, 2009 |

Ministry History

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| 1948-1949 | Teacher: Grade 2; St. Joseph, Joliet, Illinois |
| 1949-1952 | Teacher: Grade 4; St. Mary, Columbus, Ohio |
| 1952-1955 | Teacher: Grade 2; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, Illinois |
| 1955-1956 | Teacher: Grade 1; Corpus Christi, Columbus |
| 1956-1957 | Teacher: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago |
| 1957-1959 | Teacher: Grades 1 and 2; St. Jude, Joliet |
| 1959-1963 | Teacher: Grades 1 and 2; St. Michael, Sigel, Illinois |
| 1963-1968 | Teacher: Grade 1; St. Cyril, Chicago |
| 1968-1969 | Teacher: Grade 1; St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio |
| 1969-2002 | Teacher: Grade 1; St. Stephen, Streator, Illinois |
| 2002-2009 | Community Service: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois |

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| <i>Wake:</i> | Thursday, July 9, 2009, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet |
| <i>Prayer Service:</i> | Thursday, July 9, 2009, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet |
| <i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i> | Thursday, July 9, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet |
| <i>Burial:</i> | Friday, July 10, 2009, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL |
| <i>Interment:</i> | Section 8, Lot 7, Grave 9, Resurrection Cemetery |
| <i>Predeceased by:</i> | Her parents, Albert and Frances (Frings) Schmitt; her brothers Karl and Wiemar; and her sisters Eleanore Guyon and Elaine Schmitt |
| <i>Survived by:</i> | Her brother Eugene (Nancy) Schmitt and nieces and nephews |

Rest in Peace, Sister Magdalene