

Sister Anne Seaman, O.S.F. (Irma)



Born: October 24, 1918
 Parents: Joseph and Mary (Kolesar) Seman
 Entered from: St. Stephen, Streator, IL
 Postulancy: September 8, 1935
 Novitiate: August 12, 1936
 Profession: August 12, 1938
 Died: Thursday, January 6, 2000 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL at 9:45 a.m.

Ministry:

1938 - 1945 SS Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Grade 4
 1945 - 1953 Sacred Heart (Huron), Chicago, IL, Grades 3, 4, 5, 6
 1953 - 1957 St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL, Grade 6
 1957 - 1958 St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL, Grade 6
 1958 - 1960 St. Cyril & Methodius, Grade 4, St. Ludmilla, Grade 6, Eye Surgery
 1960 - 1961 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 6
 1961 - 1964 St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL, Grade 6
 1964 - 1966 St. Cyril & Methodius, Grade 6
 1966 - 1967 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Grade 6
 1967 - 1969 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL, Grade 6
 1969 - 1974 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Grade 6
 1974 - 1983 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 5
 1983 - 1999 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Retired, St. Francis Reading Center, Tutor
 1999 - Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Sunday, January 9, 2000 from 2-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Sunday, January 9, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Monday, January 10, 2000 leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL Section 8, Lot 336, Grave 10

Survived by: her brother Donald (Alice) Seaman of Salem, OR, her sisters Leona Baer of Garden Grove, CA, and Betty (Robert) Dille of Ottawa, IL, her sister-in-law Phyllis of Land O'Lakes, FL, cousins, including Sister Mary Frances Seeley, O.S.F. of Joliet, IL, and numerous nieces and nephews and grand nieces and nephews

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

Sister Anne Seaman was born in Streator, Illinois on October 24, 1918 to Joseph and Mary Kolesar Seaman. She was baptized Anne Josephine at St. Stephen Church in Streator. She had four brothers: John, Joseph, Albert and Donald, and five sisters: Mary, Margaret, Dorothy, Leona and Betty. Anne cherished her family members and had especially fond memories of her mother whom she described as a "hard working, lovable, unselfish and helping person." Her mother prayed that at least one of her children would become a Sister or a Priest.

The prayers of Anne's mother were answered when Anne came to Joliet in 1935 to become a postulant. Reverend Louis Biskupski, the pastor of St. Stephen's Church wrote a note of recommendation for Anne to Mother Thomasine saying, "Anne Seaman's conduct has always been satisfactory and you need have no hesitation in admitting her to your Order."

The following August 12, Anne became a novice and was given the new name of Sister Mary Irma, but later she returned to the use of her baptismal name. Anne recalls this day as she wrote in 1984, "Reception Day into the community was one highlight of my life. All through the services I was so happy. It was a foretaste of heaven."

Following first profession of vows on August 12, 1938, Sister Anne began a ministry of teaching at SS Peter and Paul Parish on Chicago's South Side. She taught in various schools in the Chicago Archdiocese and at St. John the Baptist Parish in Joliet. For her final nine years of full-time teaching Sister Anne returned to her home parish in Streator, where she taught fifth grade. Sister Anne enjoyed teaching, and had a special concern for the poor. Reflecting on her ministry in 1991, Sister Anne was grateful that "the Sisters helped the poor with clothing, food, and sometimes furniture. Just to see the expression of gratitude on their faces was satisfaction enough. And of course, we knew the Lord was pleased as we were carrying on His work."

In 1983, Sister Anne continued her ministry of teaching at the Motherhouse by helping in the tutoring program. She was also able to spend more time in prayer and reflection. Among her favorite prayers was the novena to her patron St. Anne. She also enjoyed reading when her eyes were strong enough, as well as tatting and crocheting. A lively baseball game kept her interest and she found relaxation in listening to good music.

Recently, Sister Anne moved to Our Lady of Angels, so that her medical needs could be more easily provided. There, Sister Anne continued to pray for all who had been part of her life and ministry. She continued to keep up letter writing as much as she was able. When her health was failing and she grew weaker, the Sisters were joined by family members in keeping vigil at her bedside. On January 6, 2000, surrounded by love and prayer, Sister Anne gave herself back to God as she entered eternal life where she would experience fully the life of which she previously had only a foretaste.

Sister Anne, we thank you for your dedication to Catholic education and to the poor. Pray for us your former students, your friends, your family, and your Franciscan Sisters that we may grow in our awareness of the needs of others. May you enjoy the beauty of God's love and presence forever. Amen. Alleluia.

