

Alleluia!

Sister Ann Sharp, OSF



Sister Ann Sharp was born in Chicago, Illinois on June 30, 1940 to John and Mary McBride Sharp. Baptized Ann Felice, after her Benedictine aunt, at Mt. Carmel Church in Chicago, she was the second of six children. Ann was preceded in death by her mother and oldest brother, Patrick. She is survived by her father; her three brothers, John, James and Daniel; her sister, Mary Ann; nieces and nephews; and two very faithful aunts, Sister Ann Felice and Virginia Laukaitis.

Ann graduated from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Elementary School in 1954 and St. Clement High School in 1958. As a member of the Congregation, she attended the College of St. Francis from which she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in History in 1966.

It was at St. Clement's that Ann first met our Sisters. After discovering that there was no religious congregation that trained pilots, one of Ann's dreams, she entered the Postulancy on September 14, 1958. Upon becoming a Novice on August 13, 1959, Ann received the name, Sister Mary Benedicta. After the Second Vatican Council, when given the option, she chose to return to her baptismal name.

Ann's career in education began at St. Raymond's, Joliet, in 1962. She spent 14 years teaching primary grades in various schools in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, including eight years at St. John the Evangelist in Loveland, Colorado. She loved this ministry of working with God's little children.

Early in her life Ann was beset with many health problems. She suffered with tuberculosis, cancer, pneumonia and depression. In 1976 her doctors attested to the fact that Ann would not be able to return to full-time teaching or any full-time ministry. This was difficult for Ann to accept. That Christmas she wrote to her family and friends,

"The pains and struggles of accepting my own weaknesses and limitations are a constant opportunity for growth and holiness.... Learning to value people not for what they can do, but because they are God's creatures dearly loved by God, is something we need so badly in our culture today.

For me it is not an easy transition being so involved as I was in work and people. But if this is the witness the Lord is calling me to, then God will certainly teach and help me in this way of living."

With this attitude Ann continued ministering to others, though in a different way. She continued in education as a tutor and teacher's aide. She began a venture called Fran Resource Center in which she created educational games and other materials, some made-to-order, that made teaching and learning more pleasurable. She volunteered in the pastoral care department at St. Joseph's Medical Center and trained as a Hospice volunteer.

After moving to OLA in 1988, Ann spent countless hours ministering to the residents, especially our Sisters. She was their companion to the doctor, to the hospital, and was on call 24 hours for emergencies. She continued her Hospice work visiting patients in their homes and at OLA. Until just recently she planned and participated in the 4 pm Saturday liturgy at OLA. In her free time, Ann liked to read, crochet, write in her journal and go to a good movie, followed by a trip to Pizza Hut.

A couple of years ago, cancer returned once again. Ann had to curtail her ministry even more. On July 2, 2003, in much pain, Ann entered Provena St. Joseph Medical Center. Surgery was performed to remove an obstruction. Ann never recovered and early in the afternoon of July 17, 2003, she peacefully went home to her God.

Sister Ann we thank you for your 44 years of service to us as teacher, caregiver, companion, sister and friend. You believed that "perfection was the work of a lifetime" and that "God was constantly forming us until we are complete." As you stand "complete" before the God you served so faithfully, remember us your family, your friends, your Franciscan Sisters! Amen! Alleluia!

Sister Ann J. Sharp, O.S.F.
30 June 1940 - 17 July 2003

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Born: June 30, 1940; Chicago, IL
Parents: John and Mary (McBride) Sharp
Entered From: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Chicago, IL
Postulancy: September 14, 1958
Novitiate: August 13, 1959
Profession: August 13, 1961
Entered New Life: Thursday, July 17, 2003; Provena-St. Joseph Medical Ctr., Joliet, IL at 2:22 p.m.

Ministry History

1962 - 1963 Teacher, Grade 2; St. Raymond Cathedral School, Joliet, IL
 1963 - 1964 Teacher, Grade 1; Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH
 1964 - 1965 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
 1965 - 1966 Teacher, Grade 2; St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL
 1966 - 1974 Teacher, Grades 1 & 2; St. John the Evangelist, Loveland, CO
 1974 - 1975 Teacher, Grades 1 & 2; St. Michael, Brunswick, MI
 1975 - 1976 Teacher, Grade 1; Annunciation, Aurora, IL
 1976 - 1977 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
 1977 - 1979 Volunteer/Tutor/Teacher Aide; St. Mary/Sacred Heart, Joliet, IL
 1979 - 1981 Language Teacher; Romeo R. Blanchette School, Joliet, IL
 1981 - 1986 Resource Consultant for Educ. Materials; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
 1986 Pastoral Care; St. Joseph Medical Center, Joliet, IL
 1986 - 1988 Volunteer Ministry; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
 1988 - 2003 Companion Sister to Residents; Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL

Wake: Monday, July 21, 2003, 2 - 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Wake Service: Monday, July 21, 2003, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Mass of Christian Burial: Monday, July 21, 2003, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Burial: Tuesday, July 22, 2003; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.
 to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL

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Survived by: John B. Sharp, her father, brothers John, James and Daniel, sister Mary Ann Sharp and nieces and nephews.

Rest in Peace, Sister Ann