

Alleluia!

Sister M. Alvina Sviontek, OSF

Sister Alvina Sviontek was born in Chicago, Illinois, on August 10, 1908, to Alvina (Sorensen) and Adam Sviontek. She was baptized Sophie Rosalie at Holy Trinity Church in Chicago. She joins six brothers and sisters who preceded her in death, Stanley, Roman, Adolf, Adam, Veronica and Victoria. Her brother, Frank, survives.

Sophie had a very happy, busy childhood attending school, helping her mother with the younger children and aiding in whatever way she could. She liked to perform in various school functions and it was at St. Pascal School in the spring of 1922 that she played Katinka, the lead in the school play entitled "Katinka or the Indian's Trust."

In 1923 at the age of 15, Sophie's mother asked her if she was going to be a sister. She replied, "no;" she wanted to marry, and be the mother of 15 children. When her mother asked her the next time her mother gave her a choice of being a Sister or a milliner. Sophie herself explained that since she did not know what a milliner was, she would become a sister; shortly after that, in 1924, Sophie became a postulant with the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate. She was our first vocation from St. Pascal Parish. When she became a novice on August 12, 1924, she received her mother's name, becoming Sister Alvina. She professed her temporary vows in 1926 and her final vows in 1929.

Sister Alvina began her very long career as a grade school teacher, teaching in the states of Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Over her career she shared God's love with many children in the regular classroom, in a special-ed class, to the children on the reservation, or in a religious education class. She was spirited and fun loving, sharing in the joys and excitement of each day. Note also that she was one of the first sisters to volunteer to be a missionary in South America. All these years, she has kept the letter written to Mother Borromeo stating that she would like to be a missionary. Evidently God had plans for her to be a teacher in the States. She had endless energy and love and never seemed to tire. She came to the Motherhouse in 1970 to work in a congregational ministry but in 1980 she returned to the class-



room, teaching Kindergarten at Holy Family School in Joliet for six more years. She followed her teaching ministry as a Pastoral Associate and substitute teacher, then as a volunteer at Groundwork until 1996 when her health called her to retire. During this time she took courses in Silva Mind Control and was the secretary of the Graphology Club of Joliet. Her zest for life and sense of humor kept her going for many years. We all know of the many nights that she worked bingo, helped in the kitchen at Holy Family, or baby-sat children of the parish. No matter what she did, she shared her happiness.

During her years of teaching, she had her children write letters to people of importance. In her file, she has responses from the Lady-In-Waiting replying for Queen Elizabeth, letters of thanksgiving for her dedicated contribution to the city of Joliet from the mayor, from Bishop Imesch as well as many other fans. She was well loved and greatly appreciated for all she was and all she gave to so many children and parents.

Sister Alvina, we thank you for sharing your spunk, your spirituality, and yourself with us in so many ways. We reflect on words that you wrote at a 1954 retreat, "Go forth courageously trusting in Jesus my Hope and Mary my Consolation." We thank God for the courage you showed as you peacefully went home to your God on Wednesday, October 26, 2005. We hope you are now enjoying all your classmates in religious life who have gone before you, your family members and friends and all our sisters and associate who were there to greet you with our loving God. May you always enjoy the peace that was meant to be. May you remember us in prayer as we mourn your passing. May you rest forever. Amen. Alleluia!

Sister M. Alvina Sviontek, OSF

10 August 1908 — 26 October 2005

Born: August 10, 1908, Chicago, Illinois
Parents: Adam Sviontek and Alvina Sorenson Sviontek
Postulancy: January 9, 1924
Novitiate: August 12, 1924
First Profession: August 13, 1926
Final Profession: August 13, 1929
Entered New Life: October 26, 2005

Ministry History

1926-1927 Teacher, Grade 4: St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA
1927-1931 Teacher, Grades 1, 2, 3, 4: St. Joseph, Manhattan, IL
1931-1932 Teacher, Grades 3, 4: SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL
1932-1933 Teacher, Grade 1, St. Peter, Mansfield, OH
1933-1934 Teacher, Grades 3, 4: Most Pure Heart, Shelby, OH
1934-1935 Teacher, Grade 2: St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL
1935-1942 Teacher, Grades 1, 2, 3, 4: Our Lady of Help School, Green Creek, IL

1942-1943 Teacher, Grades 1, 2, 3, 4: St. Joseph, Blakeslee, OH
1943-1950 Teacher, Grade 1: St. Peter, Mansfield, OH
1950-1951 Teacher, (Ungraded): Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, OH
1951-1952 Teacher, Grades 1, 2: St. John the Baptist, Payne, OH and Grades 3, 4, 5: Holy Family, Bayfield, WI

1952-1957 Teacher, Grade 1: St. Joseph, Freeport, IL
1957-1961 Teacher, Grade 1: St. Peter, Mansfield, OH
1961-1962 Teacher, Grade 1: St. Procop, Cleveland, OH
1962-1963 Teacher, Grade 1: St. Stephen, Streator, IL
1963-1964 Teacher, Grade 1: SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago
1964-1970 Teacher, Grades 2, 3: St. Pascal, Chicago
1970-1972 General Assistant; St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
1972-1974 Tutor: Motherhouse, Joliet
1974-1976 General Work: Guardian Angel Home, Joliet
1976-1977 Laundress: Saga Laundry, St. Francis Academy
1977-1978 Teacher, Reading: Richland School, Crest Hill, IL
1978-1980 Receptionist: St. Francis Academy, Joliet
1980-1986 Teacher, Kindergarten: Holy Family, Joliet
1986-1988 Pastoral Assistant: St. Francis Academy, Joliet
1988-1996 Catechist, Groundwork, Substitute Teacher, Volunteer: St. Francis Academy, Joliet
1996-2005 Special Ministry/Retired

Wake: Monday, October 31, 2005, 3:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wake Service: Monday, October 31, 2005, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Mass of Christian Burial
Burial Monday, October 31, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Tuesday, November 1, 2005, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Interment: S8-L4-G8 Resurrection Cemetery
Predeceased by: Her parents Adam Sviontek and Alvina (Sorenson); four brothers, Stanley (Verne) Sviontek, Roman Sviontek, Adolph (Judy) Sviontek and Adam (Lillian) Sviontek; sisters, Victoria (Ray) Hildebrand and Veronica (Jim) Miner. Sister-in-law Vevien Sviontek.
Survived by: Her brother, Francis Sviontek.

Rest in Peace, Sister Alvina