

# Alleluia!

## Sister Mary Cora Trisch, OSF



Sister Mary Cora Trisch (Helen) was born on April 20, 1910, in Beaversdale, (Lloydell) PA. She was the second of eleven children: ten daughters and one son, born to George and Martha Rodak Trisch. At the age of 15, Helen came to Joliet to begin her life with the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate as a postulant on September 10, 1925. On August 12, 1926, upon entrance to the novitiate Helen became Sister Mary Cora. In 2001, many Jubilees later, we celebrated with Sister as she completed 75 years in the Congregation.

Sister Mary Cora cherished her vocation as a religious teacher. She valued the teachers and the inspiration she received from them as a child. Through all these years she kept the photo of her sixth grade teacher, Miss McNellis. After finishing Lloydell Public School, Helen attended Summerhill Township High School but completed her secondary education at St. Francis Academy, Joliet, as a postulant. Sister received her Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a Certificate in Franciscan Theology from the College of St. Francis, Joliet. She furthered her education at St. John's College in Cleveland, Ohio. Teacher Certification was granted her in Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. In 1980, she obtained her Catechist Certification from the Office of Religious Education in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. In 1987, the Johnstown Council #467 Knights of Columbus gave the "Outstanding Citizen Award" to Sister for her service and dedication to God, country, parish council, and community.

Sister Mary Cora began her long career as a teacher at St. Mary, Columbus, Ohio, where she taught primary grades. Through the years, Sister continued to teach Kindergarten, first and second grade. After 40 years of teaching in various schools in Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan, she finally arrived back in her home state of Pennsylvania where she continued teaching.

Sister Mary Cora was dauntless in her dedication especially to the neediest students. In 1981, when most of her peers were cherishing retirement, she went daily to the United Cerebral Palsy Center to be a teacher's aide for nine years. This did not complete her yearning to remain in active ministry. For nearly three years she served St. Stephen Parish. Her farewell praise in the Church bulletin included thanks for many things: Legion of Mary, Eucharistic Minister, Leader of Prayer Group, Catechist, keeper of the votive lights, security guard of the Church, and Ladies' Guild member.

When Sister Mary Cora returned to Joliet in the fall of 1993, she gained the distinction of being the last of a long line of Joliet Franciscans in Johnstown, PA, that dated back to 1895. Through this span of 98 years, the Sisters

had taught many generations of children, witnessed historic floods, cared for numerous victims of the floods and several epidemics of the influenza. Sister Cora recounted these and family events in a video that Reon Wadsworth filmed in July of 1992.

Sister Mary Cora's sense of family loyalty is reflected in the photo albums and note books that she kept and captioned through the years. Her paternal grandmother lived to be 104. At one point when asked about family she remarked that she had oodles and oodles of cousins. She listed these by state including Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Virginia, West Virginia, Maine, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Michigan, Maryland, California, Florida, plus many still in Europe. Sister Cora enjoyed many trips and holidays with members of her large extended family.

Sister Mary Cora and Sister Lucia Chunta came to the Congregation together and remained life long friends. The sudden death of Sister Lucia in 1990, was very difficult for Sister Mary Cora, but she continued her ministry in Johnstown as long as possible. Leaving home the first time proved to be much easier than returning to Joliet in 1993. In her little notebook she had this quote: "Where we love is Home, Home that our feet may leave but not our hearts." In time, Sister's resilience returned and her bright eyes and soul-filled smile continued long after her ability to speak was gone. For someone who had so many stories to tell, only our God knows how Sister Mary Cora really lived these last few years in deep silence.

Sister Mary Cora encouraged her family through correspondence and the distribution of leaflets to spread devotion to Mary and the recitation of the rosary. Sister shared her handmade articles and recipes with friends and family. "Cora's Christmas Coffee Ring" recipe was published.

Sister's family and friends reciprocated. As recently as Thanksgiving of this year, a second grade student of 1937 from St. Peter's Mansfield sent Sister a special note of gratitude.

Sister Mary Cora, we thank you for sharing your life and love with us for the past 78 years. Amen. Alleluia.

**Sister Mary Cora Trisch, OSF**  
**20 April 1910 - 17 December 2003**

835

*Born:* April 20, 1910; Lloydell, Pennsylvania  
*Parents:* George and Martha (Rodak) Trisch  
*Entered From:* St. Joseph, Lloydell, Pennsylvania  
*Postulancy:* September 10, 1925  
*Novitiate:* August 12, 1926  
*Profession:* August 12, 1928  
*Entered New Life:* Wednesday, December 17, 2003; Our Lady of Angels at 1:40 a.m.

**Ministry History**

1928 - 1932 Teacher, Grades 1,2 & 3; St. Mary, Columbus, OH  
 1932 - 1944 Teacher, Grade 1 & 2; St. Peter Elementary, Mansfield, OH  
 1944 - 1945 Teacher, Grade 2; St. Stephen, Streator, IL  
 1945 - 1946 Teacher, Kindergarten & Grade 1; St. Francis of Assisi, Chicago, IL  
 1946 - 1947 Teacher, Grades 1 & 2; Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH  
 1947 - 1948 Teacher, Kindergarten, Grades 1 & 2; Assumption, Chicago, IL  
 1948 - 1950 Teacher, Grade 1; St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH  
 1950 - 1951 Teacher, Grade 3; St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA  
 1951 - 1956 Teacher, Grades 1 & 2; Holy Family, Cleveland, OH  
 1956 - 1957 Teacher, Grade 1; Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH  
 1957 - 1958 Teacher, Grades 1 & 2; St. Mary, Rock Island, IL  
 1958 - 1959 Teacher, Grades 1, 2, & 3; SS. Peter and Paul, Leonore, IL  
 1959 - 1962 Teacher, Grades 1 & 2; St. Michael, Brunswick, MI  
 1962 - 1967 Teacher, Grades 1 & 2; St. Procop, Cleveland, OH  
 1967 - 1968 Teacher, Grade 2; Immaculate Conception, Toledo, OH  
 1968 - 1976 Teacher, Grade 4 & 5; St. Casimir, Johnstown, PA  
 1976 - 1979 Teacher, Grade 4; West End Catholic, Johnstown, PA  
 1979 - 1981 Teacher and Tutor; St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA  
 1981 - 1990 Teacher Aide; United Cerebral Palsy Center, Johnstown, PA  
 1990 - 1992 Sacristan; St. Stephen Church, Johnstown, PA  
 1992 - 1993 Parish Ministry; St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA  
 1993 - 2003 Retired; Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

*Wake:* Friday, December 17, 2003, 2 - 6:50 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Wake Service:* Friday, December 17, 2003, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Mass of Christian Burial:* Friday, December 17, 2003, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
*Burial:* Saturday, December 18; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.  
 to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL  
 S8 - L333 - G9

*Survived by:* Sisters: Ann Schaefer, Georgene Muccioli, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

**Rest in Peace, Sister Mary Cora**