

Sister M. Donald Vana, O.S.F.

758

Born: May 20, 1909
Parents: Frank and Josephine (Haskovec) Vana
Entered from: St. Procop Parish, Cleveland, OH
Postulancy: September 5, 1927
Novitiate: August 12, 1928
Profession: August 12, 1930



Died: Saturday November 15, 1997 at 8:05 p.m. at
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Ministry:

1930 - 1931 St. Joseph, Joliet, Grade 4
SS. Cyril and Methodius, Chicago, IL, Grade 2
1931 - 1935 St Procopius, Chicago, IL, Grade 2
1935 - 1937 SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Grade 3
1937 - 1942 SS. Cyril and Methodius, Chicago, IL, Grade 2
1942 - 1945 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grades 4, 5
1945 - 1947 St. Procop, Cleveland, OH, Grades 2, 3, 4
1947 - 1956 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Grade 3
1956 - 1960 St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL, Grade 2
1960 - 1961 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 2
1961 - 1963 Holy Family, Cleveland, OH, Grade 2
1963 - 1964 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 2
1964 - 1965 St. Jude, Joliet, IL, Grade 3
1965 - 1968 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL, Grades 2, 3
1968 - 1969 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 5
1969 - 1972 St. Procop, Cleveland, OH, Grade 4
1972 - 1980 Cleveland Central Catholic, Cleveland, OH,
Assistant Librarian
1980 - 1987 Parma Heights, OH, Ministry to Family
1987 - 1997 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL Wednesday, November 19, 1997
2-7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Wednesday, November 19, 1997 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Thursday, November 20, 1997 leaving Our Lady of Angels at
9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8-L338-G5

Survived by: nieces and nephews

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

Sister Mary Donald was born in Cleveland, Ohio on May 20, 1909 to Frank and Josephine Vana. In Baptism at St. Procop Church, she was given the name Josephine after her mother. Her family was large. She had four sisters: Barbara, Mary, Rose and Cecilia, and seven brothers: Michael, Joseph, Stanley, Albert, William, Thomas and Frank. Josephine attended St. Procop Parish School through high school graduation before coming to Joliet to become a postulant with the Franciscan Sisters on September 5, 1927.

Upon her entrance into the Novitiate, Josephine was given the name of Sister M. Donald. Following her first profession of vows on August 12, 1930, Sister Donald began a ministry of elementary education which was to continue for over forty years. Sister Donald taught in many schools in Illinois and Ohio, including time spent at her home parish of St. Procop in Cleveland. Sister Donald also ministered as a librarian at Central Catholic High School in Cleveland and spent many years caring for her family members. All her brothers and sisters died before her, but she spent much time in her later active years caring for her sister Cecilia. She took great pride in the fact that her brother Stanley was a Jesuit priest.

Of her days of teaching, Sister Donald did her best to help others to learn and to deepen their faith life. She spent her time preparing lessons and checking assignments and tests. Her students were often remembered in her prayers.

In her life as a religious, Sister Donald valued "congeniality--a bit of friendly chatter and a game of cards, bowling, once in a while, and some time to get together." She made efforts to help others in different ways with things they were not able to do for themselves. She saw a common mission and service as the reason that brings us together. Sister Donald spent her time in helping her family and the needs she saw in her Sisters around her.

In 1987, Sister Donald came to Joliet to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. She who had cared for others for so long now received the care of others, as her health continued to fail. During her retirement years, Sister Donald enjoyed doing various craft works. She enjoyed reading and visiting with others; much of her time was spent in prayer. From her youth she had developed a devotion to the Infant of Prague, and anyone who visited her room could see the statue that stood on her dresser, dressed in the robes of a King, wearing a crown on his head and holding the world in his hand.

As her condition of health weakened, the Sisters and the nursing staff continued to spend time and to be with her, to pray and to visit with her. On Saturday evening at 8:05 p.m., Sister Donald drew her last breath and quietly went to receive the crown prepared for her in heaven.

Sister Donald, we thank you for the gift of your life with us. We ask you to pray for each of us, your family members, your former students and your Franciscan Sisters, as you are welcomed with a crown of glory that never fades. May you continue to pray for each of us as you find gladness and rejoicing forever. Amen. Alleluia.

