

Alleluia!

Sister Agnes Vondra, OSF

Sister Agnes Vondra was born in Cleveland, Ohio to Alois and Marie (Valcik) Vondra on September 16, 1911. She was baptized at St. Procop Parish on September 24, 1911. She remained an active parishioner there until she entered the convent. Agnes attended St. Procop Grade School and Commercial High School, Lincoln High School and St. Alexis School of Nursing, receiving a Nursing Degree before she came to Joliet. It was in nursing that Agnes became acquainted with the Joliet Franciscans when Mother Thomasine Frye was visiting a patient in the hospital where Agnes worked.

Agnes entered our Postulancy on January 30, 1933, and the Novitiate in August of 1933, when she received the name Sister Mary Ludmilla, the name that her father told her to ask for because St. Ludmilla was the patron saint of Czechoslovakia. She made her first vows in 1935 and her final vows in 1938. Sister Agnes was very proud of the fact that since her class made their first vows, no one left the congregation. That is truly an interesting and unusual statistic!

Sister Agnes went on to further schooling, receiving a B.A. degree from the College of St. Francis as well as a certificate from the Seraphic Institute, an M.A. degree from De Paul University and she earned many graduate hours from other colleges and universities. Her career spanned many years as a teacher at schools in Illinois and Ohio, and as a nurse at Marybrook and the Motherhouse infirmary. Sister Agnes was also involved in research and other activities, such as being a member of the Lab of Bacteriology at Notre Dame, as partner to Dr. Goldberg on the Loyola Ethics Board, as a Red Cross worker, as a guest lecturer and key speaker at various conventions, summer schools and science fairs.

Sister Agnes also served as portress at the Motherhouse, volunteer at our Groundwork shelter, hospital visitor at St. Joseph Hospital, teaching religion classes for special needs children, making rosaries, or playing the violin in an inter-community music



ensemble. She was very involved in our congregation stamp ministry also. We know of Sister Agnes' devotion to and long membership in the Legion of Mary; she conducted weekly meeting and prayer times at OLA until very recently.

After her serious illness in the early 70's, Sister Agnes came to OLA and stayed for awhile until she joined a retirement community with some of our other sisters in Wickliffe, Ohio. She also lived with the Vincentian Sisters of Charity in Bedford, Ohio before returning to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. This provided her with opportunities to spend time with her dear sister, Marie. During her retirement at Our Lady of Angels she acquired many volunteer hours, serving in various capacities, especially taking very seriously her ministry of sitting with and praying for the dying sisters.

Sister Agnes, we thank you for the words of encouragement and thanksgiving you shared with so many of us. We thank you for your determination to live a full life even with your physical challenges. We will remember your smile, your love of singing, and your devotion to Mary as you prayed for each of us. We pray for your parents, your brother Ladislaus and your relatives and friends and our sisters who have gone before you and are at the doors of heaven welcoming you to your new home. We pray with and for your sister, Marie, your classmates, Sisters Mary McKeon, Christine Lentsch, Finbarr Dunne, Luke Livingston, Mary Franz, Kathleen Kirk, Mariarthur Hamann, and Mary Rita McCabe and all of us who mourn you. May our loving God hold you in the palm of his hand and keep you in peace forever.

Amen. Alleluia.

Sister Agnes Vondra, OSF
September 16, 1911 — March 7, 2006

Born: September 16, 1911, Cleveland, Ohio
Parents: Alois A. Vondra and Marie A. (Valcik) Vondra
Postulancy: January 30, 1933
Novitiate: August 12, 1933
First Profession: August 12, 1935
Final Profession: August 12, 1938
Entered New Life: March 7, 2006

Ministry History

1935-1936 Student: College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1936-1940 Nurse, Infirmarian: St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
1940-1941 Teacher; Science, Biology, History: SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL
1941-1948 Instructor; Biology: College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1948-1950 Instructor; Biology, PE, Home Economics: College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
Chairperson PE Workshop (Summer): Loyola University and Xavier
College for Women, Chicago, IL

1950-1957 Instructor; Biology, PE: College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1957-1958 Teacher, Religion, Biology; Nurse: Marybrook Academy, Maumee, Ohio
1958-1969 Teacher; Health, Biology: St. Peter High School, Mansfield, Ohio
1969-1971 Parish Worker: St. Procop, Cleveland, Ohio
1971-1972 Family Ministry: Cleveland, Ohio
1972-2006 Retired/Special Ministry

Wake: Thursday, March 9, 2006, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wake Service: Thursday, March 9, 2006, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Mass of Christian Burial Thursday, March 9, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Burial Friday, March 10, 2006, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to
Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Interment: S8-L5-G3 Resurrection Cemetery
Predeceased by: Her parents Alois A. Vondra and Marie A. Valcik and her brother Ladislaus
(Mildred) Vondra
Survived by: Her sister Marie (Augustine) Vana; niece, nephew and grand niece

Rest in Peace, Sister Agnes