

Sister Maristella Yurick, O.S.F.

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Born: January 6, 1916  
Parents: Andrew and Agnes (Lesak) Yurick  
Entered from: St. Stephen Parish, Streator, IL  
Postulancy: September 8, 1933  
Novitiate: August 12, 1934  
Profession: August 12, 1936  
Died: Saturday, September 18, 1999 at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL at 5:30 p.m.

Ministry:

1936 - 1938 St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Grade 2  
1938 - 1944 St. Dionysius, Benton, MO, Grades 1-6  
1944 - 1945 Immaculate Conception, Kankakee, IL, Grades 1-4  
1945 - 1947 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Infirmary  
1947 - 1950 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 2, 3  
1950 - 1951 St. John Hospital, Springfield, IL, Patient  
1951 - 1962 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, College Information Office Switchboard, Reading Clinic  
1962 - 1994 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Receptionist

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Wednesday, September 22, 1999  
2-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL  
Wednesday September 22, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial of Cremains Thursday, September 23, 1999 leaving Our Lady of Angels at  
9:30 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL,  
Section 8, Lot, 336, Grave 2

Survived by: her sisters Sabina Pile (Streator, IL), Margaret Wahl (Ottawa, IL)  
and Emma Knudsen (Streator, IL)

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

Sister Maristella Yurick was born on January 6, 1916 in Kangley, Illinois to Andrew and Agnes Lesak Yurick. In Baptism she was given the name Anna. Together with her three brothers, Andrew, Michael and George, and her sisters, Sabina, Mary, Agnes, Margaret and Emma she learned values of family life and Christian faith. When Anna was about six years old, her mother died. Her aunt welcomed the children into her care and continued to nurture the children in goodness and faith.

In June of 1931, Anna graduated from St. Stephen School in Streator, Illinois, where she had received her First Holy Communion and the sacrament of Confirmation. As Anna began her high school years, she came to Joliet to be an aspirant and attended St. Francis Academy. On September 8, 1933, Anna was received as a postulant with the Joliet Franciscan Sisters. On August 12, 1934, Anna was received into the Novitiate and given the new name of Sister Mary Stella. Later she changed the spelling to Maristella.

Following first profession of vows on August 12, 1936, Sister Maristella began her teaching ministry at St. Boniface parish in Chicago, teaching second grade students. After her time in Chicago, she went to Benton Missouri where she taught students at St. Denis (then St. Dionysius) in various combinations of first to sixth grades. She also taught at Immaculate Conception School in Kankakee, Illinois and St. Francis Xavier in Chicago.

In March of 1949, Sister Maristella was hospitalized with tuberculosis. She was treated by doctors at St. John's Hospital in Springfield and spent time as a patient at St. John's Sanitarium with the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. Her illness seemed to foster her spirit of prayer and the contemplative side of her spirituality. When her health grew somewhat better, she returned to Joliet and served as a switchboard operator at the Motherhouse and at the College of St. Francis. Sister Maristella also continued to use her teaching skills as a tutor in the college reading clinic.

Sister Maristella sought out ways to reach out to people. She would write notes and letters and prayed daily for many people. She enjoyed needlework and watching a baseball game, as well as playing cards and visiting with others. Much of her time was spent in prayer and spiritual reading. When Sister Maristella moved to Our Lady of Angels in 1962, she continued to tutor and to serve as a receptionist. She enjoyed having the chapel in her place of residence and could often be found in prayer there.

On September 18, 1999, Sister Maristella had been in the chapel for the 4:00 p.m. Mass and came into the dining room to join the others at supper. As she entered the dining room, she had a sudden heart attack which claimed her life. The Sisters gathered around her with Father Joseph Maisonneuve, the Chaplain, to pray for her as she made her swift and peaceful passage to eternal life.

Sister Maristella, we thank you for your life among us. As you now enter into the eternal banquet with your heavenly bridegroom, we ask you to pray for each of us, your family, your friends and your Franciscan sisters, that we too, may experience the gift of prayer and the joy of God's love. May you celebrate with Jesus who called you, now and forever. Amen. Alleluia.

