

Alleluia!

Sister Lillian C. Zenz, OSF



Sister Lillian Zenz was born on October 14, 1919, in Toledo, Ohio, the third of five children born to Della and Albert Zenz. Her younger sister, Mary Rose, was with us in community for many years. Lillian was baptized on November 2, 1919 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Toledo, Ohio.

After attending grammar school in Shelby, Ohio, Lillian entered the aspirancy in Joliet, Illinois. On September 8th of 1935, she became a postulant at St. Francis Convent in Joliet. Her novitiate followed in 1936, at which time she received the name of Sister Albert. Sister Albert made her first vows in 1938 and her final vows in 1941. She kept the name of Sister Albert until the late 60's when she decided to return to her baptismal name of Lillian. Throughout her years in formation, it was said by many of her directors that she was kind, generous and hard working. As she herself has said, she loved religious life and felt called to learn more and become more holy each day that she had the privilege to serve her God.

Sister Lillian was preceded in death by her sister Kathleen. Her sisters Elizabeth and Mary Rose, her brother Albert, and many nieces and nephews survive her. Sister Lillian graduated with a B.A. from the College of St. Francis and went on to earn an M.A. in English from De Paul University. Being a learner, she continued to study and participate in graduate grant programs at Marquette University and the University of Minnesota, earning an M.A. status in Journalism. Sister Lillian received the Catholic School Press Association award for her work with the school newspapers. For more than 40 years, she taught English, Latin, Religion, Dramatics and Journalism in Illinois and Ohio high schools. She was truly an inspiration to all her students. She was dedicated, organized and very deliberate in all she did. Whether she was teaching, working long, hard hours with the school newspaper or mentoring the Sodality girls, she was enthusiastic and willing to do whatever was needed.

Following her teaching career, she was the Director of Communications for our congregation for five years, a core member at the House of Prayer, and a volunteer in our Development Office until the last few weeks. Because of her heart condition, she had to retire from her work and spend her remaining weeks occupying herself by praying, writing letters, and greeting people as they came to visit. We always looked forward to the smiles, the pleasant work ethic and the many tasks she did for us at the Motherhouse and at our new offices. We will indeed miss her and all the joy she added to our daily routine.

Sister Lillian had many happy moments fishing. So many stories have been shared about her fishing trips down to the river in the evening while she was a core member at the House of Prayer, as well as fishing trips made with her family. She loved being in nature and enjoyed the quiet rhythm of the water. She felt so close to God at those times. We think of Lillian in so many ways as she quietly went about doing thoughtful things for others. We thank God for the ways in which she stayed active and touched many hearts. And we thank God for the peaceful way in which she entered her new home in the early morning hours of Ash Wednesday at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home.

We pray with her family and our sisters as we mourn the death of such a fine woman. We thank you, God, for the years that you gave Sister Lillian to us. We pray that she may be rejoicing with all her family members as she meets you face to face. May she and all her family members, and our sisters who have gone before her, rest in eternal peace. Amen. Alleluia!

Sister Lillian C. Zenz, OSF
14 October 1919 - 9 February 2005

Born: October 14, 1919; Toledo, OH
Parents: Albert W. and Della (Gustweiler) Zenz
Entered From: Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish
Postulancy: September 8, 1935
Novitiate: August 12, 1936
Profession: August 12, 1938
Entered New Life: February 9, 2005

Ministry History

1938-1940 Student; College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1940-1941 Teacher; 4th Grade, Ss. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL
1941-1943 Teacher; High School, Ss. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL
1943-1944 Teacher; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1944-1945 Teacher; St. Mary High School, Columbus, OH
1945-1953 Teacher; St. Clement High School, Chicago, IL
1953-1959 Teacher; St. Peter High School, Mansfield, OH
1959-1962 Teacher; St. Francis de Sales High School, Chicago, IL
1962-1975 Teacher; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1975-1979 Teacher; St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL
1979-1984 Director of Communications; Congregation Motherhouse, Joliet, IL
1984-1997 Member; St. Clare House of Prayer, Kankakee, IL
1997-2005 Volunteer; Congregation Development Office, Joliet, IL

Wake: Sunday, February 13, 2005, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Wake Service: Sunday, February 13, 2005, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Mass of Christian Burial: Sunday, February 13, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Burial: Monday, February 14, 2005; leaving Our Lady of Angels at 8:30 a.m. to
Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
Interment: S8-L4-G4, Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL

Survived by: Sisters Betty Iozzo and Mary Rose Bucciarelli and brother Albert (Lois) Zenz, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Rest in Peace, Sister Lillian