

SISTER M. AGNES CLARE BALTZ, O.S.F. (Mary Teresa) 100

Born: August 9, 1898 in Nashville, Tennessee
Parents: Joseph and Teresa (Schweiss) Baltz
Postulancy: January 19, 1920
Novitiate: August 12, 1920
First Profession: August 12, 1922
Final Profession: August 12, 1925
Died: Friday, July 17, 1992 at 11:58 p.m. at
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet



Ministry:

1922 - 1924 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 2
1924 - 1932 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grades 2, 3, 4, and Art in
Grades 5 - 8
1932 - 1937 SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Grades 5 & 6
1937 - 1938 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Grades 3 & 4
1938 - St. John Baptist, Payne, OH, Domestic Work
November 8 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Infirmary - Convalescing
1939 - 1940 St. John Baptist, Payne, OH, Domestic Work
1940 - 1948 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Grades 3 & 4
1948 - 1951 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 4
1951 - 1952 St. Mary, Fairfield, AL, Grades 3, 4 & 5
1952 - 1953 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 2
1953 - 1954 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL, Grade 1
1954 - 1957 SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Grades 3 & 4
1957 - 1960 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 2
1960 - 1961 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 2
1961 - 1969 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 2
1969 - 1975 Immaculate Conception, Columbus, OH, General Assistant
October 19 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired
1975 - 1992 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Monday, July 20, 1992 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Service at 4:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

Mass of Christian Burial: Monday, July 20, 1992 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Tuesday, July 21, at 10:00 a.m. at Resurrection Cemetery

Survived by her sister, Catherine Geist and brothers: Louis and William and numerous nieces and nephews

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

Sister Agnes Clare, born in Nashville, Tennessee, to Joseph Baltz and Theresa Schweiss Baltz on August 9, 1898, their seventh child and first daughter, was baptized Mary Teresa at the Church of the Assumption in Nashville, on August 28 of that same year. Maria Teresa learned the values of sharing and caring as she lived with her nine brothers and one sister. Two of her brothers, Aloysius and Frank, joined the Benedictine Order. Maria Teresa continued to care for the younger children in the family after the death of their mother, until, at age 21, she became a postulant with the Joliet Franciscan Sisters. The Reverend Edward Desmond, then Pastor of Assumption Parish in Nashville, wrote these words describing the character of Maria Teresa: "Maria Teresa Baltz is in every sense of the word a genuinely Catholic young lady of good character, name and piety. She gives every evidence of a real religious vocation and any Religious Community receiving her will have no regrets."

Maria Teresa was received into the Novitiate on August 12, 1920, and given the name Sister Agnes Clare. (The name Agnes is taken from the Latin word for Lamb, and so many called her by the affectionate nickname of Lambie.) The words of endorsement written by her pastor were borne out by Sister Agnes Clare's Franciscan Sisters over the years. These are some of the words they chose to describe their sister: exact, conscientious, respectful, prayerful, gentle, playful, forgiving, simple, quiet, artistic, content and happy.

Truly we have had no regrets! Sister Agnes Clare herself certainly treasured the gift of her vocation for she named the celebration of Final Profession and her Jubilees as the highlights of her life.

Sister Agnes Clare served the Lord faithfully for over 70 years, ministering mainly in the field of education in Illinois, Ohio and Alabama. She earned a college degree with a major in art and a minor in education.

In 1974, following a rewarding ministry of teaching, Sister Agnes Clare came to Our Lady of Angels to retire, but continued to work to brighten the spirits of her many sisters here, perhaps, in a way similar to what she had done years before for her sister and brothers. It was during these years of retirement that Sister Agnes Clare shared a reflection that her mother had been the strongest influence in her life and she continued to share the gifts she had received with others.

On July 17, 1992, when the nurse was making late night rounds, she noticed that Sister Agnes Clare was failing quickly. Immediately Sister Lillian Ujka and Father Pat Gleason were summoned and were with Sister Agnes Clare, as swiftly and quietly she returned to her God just before midnight that night, and the Good Shepherd welcomed his Lambie home.

Sister Agnes Clare, may your love continue to enrich our world through your brothers, Louis and William, and through your sister, Catherine, as well as through your nieces and nephews and all your family members. We thank you for your gentle peace shared with us over these 93 years. May your life continue to be an inspiration to us, your Joliet Franciscan Sisters. Amen! Alleluia!

