

SISTER M. ELIZABETH BERTELS

718

Born: October 14, 1909
Parents: Hubert and Mary Meyer Bertels
Postulancy: November 13, 1934
Novitiate: August 12, 1935
First Profession: August 12, 1937
Final Profession: August 12, 1940
Died: Saturday, February 5, 1994, at 4:10 a.m.



Ministry:

1937-38 St. Francis Prep, Joliet, IL, Student College of St. Francis
1938-39 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Student College of St. Francis
1939-40 Corpus Christi High School, Columbus, OH,
English, History, Religion
St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 7
1940-41 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Prefect Senior Girls
1941-42 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Assistant Librarian
1942-52 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL,
French, History, Civics, English, Algebra, Typewriting
1952-53 St. Francis de Sales High School, Chicago, IL,
Geography, Civics, Religion
1953-54 St. Peter High School, Mansfield, OH,
Algebra, Geometry, Civics
1954-63 Sacred Heart High School Englewood, Chicago, IL,
Religion, Civics, History, Typing, Librarian
1963-84 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL,
History, Bookstore Manager, Assistant Librarian
1984-94 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Tuesday, February 8, 1994
2-7p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL,
Tuesday, February 8, 1994 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL,
Wednesday, February 9, 1994,
from Our Lady of Angels at 9:30 a.m.

Survived by: a sister, Mrs. Margaret (Al) Meyer, of Washington, MO
nieces, nephews, cousins

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

Sister Elizabeth was born in Washington, Missouri to Hubert and Mary Meyer Bertels on October 14, 1909. She was taken to St. Francis Borgia Church for Baptism, and given the name Anna Marie. After finishing eighth grade, Anna Marie completed two years of Commercial School. When she was twenty five years old, Anna Marie came to Joliet to join the Sisters of St. Francis. Upon reception into the Novitiate on August 12, 1935, Anna Marie was given the name Sister Elizabeth.

The call to religious life was both humbling and precious to Sister Elizabeth. She loved being part of a life style that called her to prayer and to a generous response to God. Her pastor, Father Joseph Meyer, OFM, recognized those signs of devotion when he wrote to Mother Thomasine to recommend his parishioner, Anna Marie Bertels, as a candidate to religious life, "...she comes from a very good and pious family, is a good, pious, devout and virtuous young lady, whose sole aim in entering the convent is to save her soul, serve God more faithfully, and to do work required by the order. She is one of my best sodalists and has been very active in our parish activities...."

Those who knew Sister Elizabeth describe her using these words: "quiet, respectful, prayerful, industrious, gentle, upright, cheerful, religious, reliable and conscientious." In her request to make vows, Sister Elizabeth wrote to Mother Thomasine of her desire to "work for the honor and glory of God in whatever I am appointed to do."

Following her First Profession, Sister Elizabeth remained in Joliet to continue her studies. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in history at the College of St. Francis, Sister Elizabeth began her ministry of education at Corpus Christi High School in Columbus, Ohio and served in several schools in Illinois and Ohio. A total of thirty one years were spent at St. Francis Academy in Joliet. Speaking of her years at St. Francis Academy, Sister Elizabeth writes: "I like it very much at the Academy--the chapel, the school, the Sisters, and living with a large group."

Sister Elizabeth moved to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home nearly ten years ago. Her physical state became gradually weaker, but she was always appreciative of all that people did for her. Sister Elizabeth had lived her life quietly, and on the very early morning of February 5, 1994, she quietly went to meet her God. The words she wrote to Mother Thomasine in 1937, convey a special message for us today, "I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for all that the community has done for me, for the careful training given to me, for the care bestowed on me in my recent illness,...I am truly grateful for everything and I sincerely say, 'God bless you and the community'."

Sister Elizabeth, we thank you for your devoted service to Catholic education. We ask you now to pray for all those who work to further Catholic education. We ask you to pray for us, your Franciscan Sisters, your family members, your students and friends, that we may share in that divine wisdom which you now enjoy for all eternity. Amen. Alleluia.

