

SISTER ELIZABETH BIBA, O.S.F. (CHRYSOSTOM) 720

Born: May 9, 1906
Parents: Anthony R. and Caroline (Babicky) Biba
Postulancy: September 7, 1926
Novitiate: August 12, 1927
First Profession: August 12, 1929
Final Profession: August 12, 1932



Died: Wednesday May 11, 1994 at 3:32 a.m.
at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

Ministry:

1929-37	St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grades 4-8
1/38 to 6/38	St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Grades 7,8
1938-40	St. Bernard, Joliet, IL, Grade 7
1940-46	St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grades 6,7
1946-47	St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 8
1947-49	St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Grade 7
1949-51	St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 7
1951-58	St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH, Grades 6,7
1958-60	St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 6
1960-61	St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 7
1961-65	St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH, Grades 5,6
1965-66	St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 7
1966-68	St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Grade 6
1968-74	St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL, Grades 4, 7
1974-77	St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Learning Center
1977-81	St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 4
1981-88	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Reading Program, Tutor
1988-94	Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL Friday, May 13, 1994
2-7 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Friday, May 13, 1994 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Saturday, May 14, 1994 leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m.
Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8-L351-G2

Survived by: her sister, Carol Knittle and nephews William Knittle (Diane)
and Charles Knittle (Marianne).

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

Elizabeth Biba was born in Chicago Illinois on May 9, 1906 to Anton and Karolina Biba, and was baptized at St. Vitus Church in Chicago on May 23 of that same year. Bessie, as her family called her, was the second youngest of seven children. During her childhood, the family moved to Des Plaines, Illinois, where Bessie attended South Division Public School and Maine Township High School. Father John Linden, her pastor from St. Mary's in Des Plaines, wrote a letter to recommend her acceptance into the Joliet Franciscan Congregation. Bessie became a Postulant with the Joliet Franciscan Sisters on September 7, 1926 and entered the Novitiate the following August, when she was given the name, Sister Mary Chrysostom, a name of one of the Doctors of the early Church. Sister Chrysostom pursued an avid course of studies, receiving her bachelor's degree from the College of St. Francis in 1940 and a Master's degree in education from DePaul University in Chicago in 1964.

Sister Elizabeth had a spirit of curiosity and enthusiasm that motivated her to sign up for any and all activities that were an option for anyone interested. She loved to swim, to read books, to work jig-saw puzzles, and to walk in the great outdoors. She was also known for her kindly ways and true appreciation of the gifts of others. One of Elizabeth's fondest memories was that of her travels to Europe, especially her visit to Lourdes and Assisi.

Sister Chrysostom loved her ministry of teaching. Most of her years were spent with students of the middle grades, working in schools in Illinois and Ohio. She taught at St. Peter's School in Mansfield, Ohio for a total of 18 years. Other places of ministry included St. Pascal in Chicago, St. Francis DeSales in Toledo, St. Mary Magdalene in Columbus, Ohio and St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora. It was from St. Francis Xavier in Chicago that Sister Elizabeth Biba returned to Joliet to continue to serve in the field of education as a reading teacher in the tutoring program at St. Francis Convent in Joliet. In 1988, Sister Elizabeth moved to Our Lady of Angels, to continue her ministry of prayer for the needs of the world.

During the past several weeks Sister Elizabeth's health grew gradually weaker. Friends and companions kept a faithful vigil as her condition worsened. Sister Mary Jean Morris prayed with her and renewed with her the vows that Sister Elizabeth first promised on her profession day in 1929. On May 9, she observed her 88th birthday. In the early morning of May 11, 1994, she was called home by her God to celebrate her heavenly birthday.

Sister Elizabeth, we thank you for the uniqueness of your own life. We ask you to continue to pray for us your Franciscan Sisters, and your family and friends, that we may respond to the call of our God in our own uniqueness. May the gift of your life continue to inspire others and to lead others in the path of knowledge and truth. May the immenseness of God's love eclipse any sadness or suffering you may have known here on earth. May you shine as the stars for all eternity. Amen.
Alleluia.

