

SISTER M. LUCIA CHUNTA O.S.F. (Mary) 666

Born: December 24, 1910 in Lloydell, Pennsylvania
Parents: John and Mary (Lukacek) Chunta
Postulancy: September 10, 1925
Novitiate: August 12, 1926
First Profession: August 12, 1928
Final Profession: August 12, 1931
Died: Sunday, February 25, 1990 at 4:00 a.m. at Mercy Hospital,
Johnstown, Pennsylvania



Ministry:

1928 - 1931 St. Stephen, Streator, IL Grade 2
1931 - 1934 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grades 3 & 5
Janaury 1934 St. Joseph, Pesotum, IL, Grades 5, 6, & 7
1934 - 1935 St. Joseph, Pesotum, IL, Grades 4, 5 & 6
1935 - 1941 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grades 6 & 7
1941 - 1945 St. John the Baptist, Joliet, IL, Grades 7 & 8
1945 - 1947 St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Grade 7
1947 - 1948 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 8
1948 - 1951 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 7
1951 - 1953 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 8
1953 - 1956 St. Pascal, Chicago, IL, Grade 7
1956 - 1958 St. Joseph, Freeport, IL, Grade 8, Superior & Principal
1958 - 1959 St. Michael, Brunswick, MI, Grades 6, 7 & 8, Superior & Principal
1959 - 1963 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grade 8
1963 - 1969 St. Procopius, Grade 8 and Principal of Grade School
1969 - 1970 St. Columba, Johnstown, PA, Grade 8
1970 - 1973 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Grade 8
1973 - 1987 West End Catholic, Johnstown, PA, Grade 6, Librarian, Tutor,
Teacher's Aide
1987 - 1988 Family Ministry, Pittsburg, PA
1988 - 1989 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Director of CCD
1989 - 1990 Teaching CCD and Foster Grandparent

Wake: Tuesday, February 27, 1990, 2:00-4:00 and 7:00-9:00 in Johnstown, PA.
Friday, March 2, 1990 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. with a Prayer service at
11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL.

Mass of Christian Burial: Wednesday, February 28, 1990 at St. Stephen
Parish, Johnstown, PA.

Burial: Friday, March 2, 1990, Resurrection Cemetery at 11:30 a.m.

Survived by sister: Mrs. Ann Marinack of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

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

On Sunday morning, February 25, 1990, at 4:00 a.m., at Mercy Hospital in Johnstown, PA., our Sister Lucia Chunta entered into the fullness of life with her God. Sr. Lucia was admitted to the hospital on Friday, February 23, 1990. The doctor diagnosed a bowel obstruction, and planned surgery for Monday. Early Sunday morning she suffered a heart attack, and died. Her death came as a surprise to all of us.

On Ash Wednesday, at St. Stephen's Church in Johnstown, we celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial, following a one day wake. Her body was returned to Joliet, and she will be buried with our Sisters in Resurrection Cemetery.

Mary was born on December 24, 1910 in Beaverdale, PA., a small coal mining town about sixteen miles from Johnstown, PA. Her parents were Mary and John Chunta. John died of a coal mining accident when Sr. Lucia was a young child. Her remarkable mother raised five boys and two girls, insisting on their education. She did this working as a midwife "delivering over 5000 babies without losing one." Sr. Lucia quickly learned lessons of hard work, frugal living, and caring for each other in a family. She is survived by her sister and dear friend, Ann, and many nieces and nephews who loved her dearly, and who will miss her very much.

Sr. Lucia entered the Congregation when she was fourteen years old. She knew our Sisters because as a child she accompanied her mother to Franciscan Third Order meetings in Johnstown. Her personal consecration as a Franciscan was the heart of her vocation. She lived to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee in 1988.

Sr. Lucia had a deep loyalty to the Congregation and rarely missed Congregation gatherings. On February 11, 1990 she traveled all day on a bus just to be present in Mansfield, OH. for a community gathering "Spirit of the Seasons". That day she wrote words of appreciation, speaking of the inspiration she received from the gathering.

Characteristic of Sr. Lucia was an openness to new Church directions and a willingness to learn. She kept up with changes in the Church after Vatican II through serious reading and attendance at programs sponsored by the Franciscans in Loretto, PA. She was active with the Sisters groups in Johnstown, and many Sisters of other Congregations came to the wake and spoke fondly of her.

Sr. Lucia was dedicated to children. For the sixty-two years of her active ministry, she served as classroom teacher, grade school principal, tutor, school librarian, CCD teacher, altar boy trainer. Many former students spoke words of tribute for the Sister who had influenced their lives. Even this final year of her life she took on the responsibility of becoming a "foster grandparent" and cared for little children in a day care center.

In 1969 she returned to Johnstown, PA and dedicated herself to the people of St. Stephen's Parish. She wrote, "I am so happy. I always wanted to serve the people of this parish." And serve she has! Her presence is woven into the fabric of that parish life, and she will be dearly missed at morning mass and rosary, Mother's Club, Legion of Mary, Eucharistic minister, CCD, Retarded Adults, Day Care, and on and on. She was always ready to help. At her funeral the Church was filled, a testimony to the quiet, dedicated, fun loving and generous Sister they loved.

Our Sr. Lucia was an ever-young person. Sister Lucia, we thank you for your 64 years in our Congregation. You have witnessed to us by your dedication, openness and deep faith. We will miss you, but we rejoice with you as you experience the fullness of life with God for all eternity. Amen! Alleluia!

