

SISTER MARY DUFFY, O.S.F. (MURIEL) 713

Born: September 8, 1911 in New Straitsville, OH
Parents: James Patrick and Susan M. (Handiboe) Duffy
Postulancy: January 27, 1946
Novitiate: August 12, 1946
First Profession: August 12, 1948
Final Profession: August 12, 1951
Died: Saturday, June 5, 1993 at 6:42 a.m.
at St. Joseph Medical Center
Ministry:



1948 - 1954 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Business Instructor, Typing, Stenography, and Accounting
1954 - 1955 Catholic University, Washington, D.C., Student in Economics
1955 - 1956 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Instructor in Economics
1956 - 1960 St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL, Business Instructor, Typing, Stenography, Bookkeeping
1960 - 1961 St. Francis de Sales High School, Chicago, IL, Business Instructor, Typing, Stenography
1961 - 1965 St. Procop High School, Cleveland, OH, English I, Religion II, Business Instructor, Typing, Stenography, Bookkeeping,
1965 - 1967 St. Mary High School, Columbus, OH, Senior Religion, Business Instructor, Typing, Stenography
1967 - 1970 Bishop Ready High School, Columbus, OH, Business Instructor, Typing, Stenography, Accounting
1970 - 1973 Catholic Conference of Ohio, Secretary to the Director
1973 - 1979 For Auditor State of Ohio, State Examiner at OSU/University Hospitals in Columbus, OH
1979 - 1982 St. Mary Convent, Columbus, OH, Volunteer work, President/Bookkeeper St. Vincent de Paul Society, Social Justice work
1982 - 1987 St. Mary Convent, Columbus, OH, Retired, Social Justice Resource person
1987 - 1989 Diocese of Columbus, OH, Social Justice Work, Bookkeeper Notre Dame School (1987-88)
1989 - 1991 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Social Justice Work for the Congregation Peace and Justice Committee
1991 - 1993 Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL, Retired, Work on Social Justice Issues

Wake: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home Tuesday, June 8, 1993 from 2 - 7 p.m.; Prayer Service at 4:30 p.m. and Mass of Christian Burial at 7 p.m.

Burial: Wednesday, June 9th at 9:30 a.m. from Our Lady of Angels to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL

Survived by: her brother Edward J. Duffy; sisters Catherine Hoffman (John), Sister Margaret Duffy OSF, Terese Weisenbach (Paul); sisters-in-law Anne Duffy (John), Etta Duffy (Joseph), niece Sister Margaret Hoffman OSF and numerous nieces and nephews

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

Sister Mary Duffy, was born to James Patrick and Susan Handiboe Duffy in New Straitsville, Ohio on the feast of the Nativity of Mary, September 8, 1911. Mary spent her childhood and young adulthood at home with her parents and three brothers and three sisters. After graduating from St. Mary's High School in Columbus, Ohio, Mary began her first secretarial job. Through income from that job, Mary was able to help sustain the life of the Duffy family through the depression years, when others in the family were unable to obtain work. Her spirit of determinism and her love of family were strong. Mary continued to live at home and support the family in many ways. It was only after her "baby" sister Margaret had entered the convent that Mary fulfilled her own desire to serve God in Religious life. Summarizing her early days of temporary profession, Sister Muriel, as she was then known, wrote: "God is Good! These words...express all the love and gratitude I feel to God and to the Community for the blessings I have received...." Sister Muriel's years of secretarial work in Columbus, and her early years of teaching prepared her to become the voice of the prophet for social justice through her campaign of letter writing and of lobbying for issues of justice. Sister Mary Duffy has written many more Epistles than Paul the Apostle, never tiring in her zeal to raise the consciousness of others. Among the many responses Mary received were letters from Congressman Chalmers Wylie, Sister Joan Chittester and Bishop Clarence Elwell.

The Diocese of Columbus, Ohio publicly recognized Sister Mary Duffy for her ministry of peace and justice by awarding her the Father Gus Winkler Award for Peace and Justice on April 26, 1986. In 1989 Sister Mary returned to Joliet, but never retired from her campaign of letter writing. Just days before she died, Mary was concerned about getting a message to President Clinton about his stand on nuclear testing. During her last few weeks Mary was hospitalized, but rallied and returned to Our Lady of Angels to prepare for a long desired trip to Columbus for retreat and to take time with family and friends. Plans were changed when Mary was readmitted to the hospital on Thursday, June 3. During those days, Mary and her sister Margaret spent time in prayer and in sharing family memories. Mary received the Sacrament of the Sick. Quietly and quickly, Mary went to her God on Saturday, June 5, just as the day was beginning.

It is not difficult for us to imagine Mary entering into her heavenly reward, saying to God, the words she spoke as she received her Father Gus Winkler Award in 1986: "It's good to see so many friends here today.....Receiving this award is a humbling experience. As I look around, I realize there are many others who may deserve the award as much or more than I. But I'm grateful, and I hope I can continue in whatever way I can to make better known the Church's teachings on social justice. I am indebted to my family, my congregation, my associates in parishes and the diocese." Welcomed into God's embrace, we can hear Mary saying to us, the words she wrote to Mother Immaculate in 1949: "God is Good!"

Mary, as you enjoy the goodness of God, we ask you to continue to work for justice and peace. We ask you to lobby before God and before all the just, to beg for each of us, your family, friends and Franciscan Sisters, that our hearts may be zealous for the values for which you gave your life. Help us to be unrelenting in our zeal for justice and peace. Amen. Alleluia.

