

SISTER MARIE DE LOURDES, O.S.F.

722

Born: January 24, 1923
Parents: Joseph P. and Barbara (Pfeffer) Fitzer
Postulancy: September 4, 1946
Novitiate: August 12, 1947
First Profession: August 12, 1949
Final Profession: August 12, 1952
Died Saturday July 16, 1994 (Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel) at 3:58 p.m.
at Our Lady of Angels



Ministry:

1949 - 1950 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Kindergarten
1950 - 1957 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Grades 3 and 1
1957 - 1960 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 1
1960 - 1961 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 8
1961 - 1964 St. Mary, Plainfield, IL, Principal, Grade 8
1964 - 1967 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Principal
1967 - 1968 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Grade 8
1968 - 1975 Divine Savior, Chicago, IL, Grades 7 and 8
1975 - 1994 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Business Office

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Tuesday, July 19, 1994
2-7:00 p.m. with prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL
Tuesday, July 19, 1994 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Wednesday July 20, 1994 leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:30 a.m.
Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL, S8-L351-G12

Survived by: her sister-in-law Grace (Norbert, deceased) Fitzer, niece Judith Radassevich and nephews Gil (Alma) Taylor, Jerry (Ellie) Taylor, Joel (Sue) Taylor, and Robert Fitzer.

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

Sister Marie de Lourdes Fitzer was born in Chicago to Joseph and Barbara Pfeffer Fitzer on January 24, 1923, and was baptized Bernadette Catherine at Sacred Heart Church in the Englewood Neighborhood of Chicago. Bernadette was the youngest of seven children, and like them attended Sacred Heart Grammar School. Her parents, her brothers and sister had a strong positive influence on her life. She described her Dad, who dearly loved the Sisters, as responsible for her own vocation to religious life. Her father died just ten days after Bernadette finished grammar school. After graduation from Loretto Academy, Bernadette worked as a bookkeeper at Chicago City Bank for four years before coming to Joliet to join the Joliet Franciscans.

Received as a novice on August 12, 1947, Bernadette was given the name Sister Marie de Lourdes. Years later she was to describe her reception day as having a "feeling of intense happiness, arriving at something I had long wished for."

Her early days of ministry were spent teaching the primary children, something she treasured as "being able to mold these little ones." Sister Marie de Lourdes also taught junior high school and served as principal at St. Mary Immaculate in Plainfield, Illinois and at St. Mary's in Des Plaines, Illinois.

In 1975 Myrt, as she was affectionately known, came to work in the business office at St. Francis Convent in Joliet where she continued until her recent bout with cancer kept her from her work. Besides her gift of accuracy and instant recall, Myrt brought to her work a spirit of congeniality, an appreciation of people and a deep conviction of loyalty and joy in serving the Congregation she so dearly loved. Her radio provided a background of news and music. There was hardly a song written in the past 50 years that Myrt could not sing at least three verses from memory. She enjoyed singing with the Sisters' choir, and for a time belonged to a special choral group directed by Sister Rosaire Schlueb. Myrt loved to gather with the Sisters to pray and she often organized the fun events at the Motherhouse. Her laughter could often be heard echoing through the halls. She had a memory for details and a gift for telling stories. Recently she shared stories about her grandparents. On her mother's side, her grandmother was a shepherdess in France and her grandfather, a shoemaker. On her father's side, her grandmother trained horses and her grandfather was a cowboy. Family life was important to her. Her family, her friends and her Franciscan Sisters were a great support to her during her illness.

On July 16, 1994, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, as she was being anointed by Father Patrick Gleeson, O. Carm., also a student from her Englewood grammar school days, our Blessed Lord called Sister Marie de Lourdes home.

We thank you Myrt for your gifts of faith, mirth, and ministry. May you continue to sing the praises of God as you join the choirs of heaven and are re-united with your Franciscan Sisters, your parents, brothers and sister in God's presence forever. Continue to pray for us that we may be a source of joy and of love to others. Amen. Alleluia.

