

**SISTER M. THOMAS KAMIS O.S.F. (Teresa) 646**

Born: August 18, 1898  
Parents: Vitor and Mary (Mack) Kamis  
Postulancy: September 7, 1916  
Novitiate: August 12, 1917  
First Profession: August 12, 1919  
Final Profession: August 12, 1922  
Died: Thursday, December 29, 1988 at 12:05 p.m. at  
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home



**Ministry:**

1918 - 1920 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Grades 2 & 3  
1920 - 1921 St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL, Grade 4  
1921 - 1922 St. Procop, Cleveland, OH, Grade 4  
1922 - 1924 Assumption, Chicago, IL, Grades 5, & 6  
1924 - 1926 Holy Family, Cleveland, OH, Grade 7  
1926 - 1933 SS. Cyril and Methodius, Chicago, IL, Grades 6 & 7  
1933 - 1934 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grade 7  
1934 - 1935 St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL, Grades 5 & 6  
1935 - 1937 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Grades 6 & 7  
1937 - 1941 St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL, Grades 5 & 6  
1941 - 1943 SS. Cyril and Methodius, Chicago, IL, Grade 6  
1943 - 1945 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Grades 5 & 6  
1945 - 1949 Holy Family, Cleveland, OH, Grades 5 & 7  
1949 - 1950 St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL, Grades 5 & 6  
1950 - 1961 St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Grade 6  
1961 - 1962 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Offset Printing Shop  
1962 - 1965 St. Pius X, Lombard, IL, Grade 5  
1965 - 1966 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 5  
1966 - 1968 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 5  
1968 - 1980 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Retired and Tutoring  
1980 - 1988 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Friday, December 30, 1988 from 3 - 8:00 p.m.  
Prayer Service at 4:15 p.m.  
Saturday, December 31, 1988 from 9 - 10:00 a.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Saturday, December 31, 1988 at 10:00 a.m.

Burial: Resurrection Cemetery.

Survived by nephews and nieces

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

With "Away in a Manger" playing in the background, at noon on December 29, 1988, Sister Thomas Kamis was born to life eternal. Alert to the last day of her life, Sr. Thomas worried about how her death would come. There was pain, a special papal blessing by Bishop Kaffer, many visits by the chaplain, a constant vigil of our sisters at her bed. She died peacefully surrounded by those who loved her.

Sr. Thomas Kamis was born August 18, 1898 in Chicago, Illinois. Her parents, Vitor and Mary, had thirteen children. All these children are deceased now, but her nieces and nephews have remained close to Sister, even visiting with her on Christmas day, a few days before her death.

Sr. Thomas entered our Congregation in 1916. She knew our Sisters as her grade school teachers at St. Cyril, Chicago. Sister Nazaria was her eighth grade teacher and had an influence on Sr. Thomas even after her graduation. She loved her religious vocation and lived to celebrate her diamond jubilee in 1979.

Sister Thomas was a teacher, and ministered in many schools in the Chicago and Cleveland area. She retired from the classroom in 1968, but continued to tutor children in the reading center at the Motherhouse until 1977.

In 1979 she wrote, "I am happy in my retirement. I have many prayer opportunities and I share happy hours with the Sisters at the Motherhouse, as I prepare myself for my eternal home."

Sister Thomas was serious yet fun loving. Despite many 'fears' and 'worries', she lived a full life, serious about those things that were important, yet playful and always ready for new adventures.

During her retirement years at the Motherhouse, she was a very important person to many of our younger sisters. She would scold them and worry about them, but they knew she really cared about them. They teased her and she responded to them. She was an inspiration to them as she tutored, peeled vegetables, visited Sunny Hill nursing home, worked for the Cancer Society and taught them how to pray the Franciscan Crown. A little insight into who she was is found in the words she wrote to President Nixon in 1973 enclosing some prayer leaflets "to help him."

In 1980 she retired to Our Lady of Angels. "Now I have more time for prayer." And pray she did...for the world, for our Congregation, everyone's concern became hers. She enjoyed visits from the sisters and her family, eager to share the latest news.

In writing about her life she once said, "I have served the Lord. I have nothing to boast of. I'll leave it to the One above to judge." Dear Sister, we have no doubt about the way the One above is judging you, and we rejoice with you as you experience life without any worries, a life of joy and celebration with your God.

