

SISTER M. VIRGINIA KARIZEK O.S.F. (Anna) 641

Born: April 28, 1898
Parents: John and Agnes (Fiala) Karizek
Postulancy: September 17, 1918
Novitiate: August 12, 1919
First Profession: August 12, 1921
Final Profession: August 12, 1924
Died: Monday, July 25, 1988 at 8:40 a.m. at
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home



Ministry:

1921 - 1928	St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Grade 1
1928 - 1950	Holy Family, Cleveland, OH, Grade 1
1950 - 1951	St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL, Grades 1 and 2
1951 - 1952	Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grade 1
1952 - 1953	St. Procop, Cleveland, OH, Grade 1
1953 - 1955	St. Procopius, Chicago, IL, Grade 1
1955 - 1956	St. Mary, Fairfield, AL, Grade 1
1956 - 1957	St. Joseph, Pesotum, IL, Grades 1 and 2
1957 - 1959	Holy Family, Cleveland, OH, Grade 1
1959 - 1960	Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Grades 1, 2 and 3
1960 - 1963	St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 1
1963 - 1967	St. Procop, Cleveland, OH, Grade 1
1967 - 1968	St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 1
1968 - 1973	St. Procop, Cleveland, OH, Grades 1 and 2
1973 - 1982	St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Retired
1982 - 1988	Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Wednesday, July 27, 1988 from 2 - 7 p.m.
Prayer Service at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Wednesday, July 27, 1988 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Thursday, July 28, 1988 from OLA at 9 a.m. to
Resurrection Cemetery.

Survived by nieces and nephews

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

On Monday morning, July 25th, at 8:30 a.m. Sr. Virginia Karizek quietly died at the breakfast table. She had just attended the morning liturgy at Our Lady of Angels. She was ready and eager to meet her God, and we rejoice with her that she will no longer have to suffer.

Anna Karizek was born in Rakovice, Pisek, Czechoslovakia on April 28th 1898. Her parents John and Agnes emigrated to the United States and settled in Cleveland, Ohio where Anna grew up in a Czech community and was educated at St. Procop's school. She had two sisters, Mary and Ella, and a brother, Jim. They are all deceased, but Sr. Virginia remained close to her nieces and nephews. She loved to tell stories about them and visit them. One of Sr. Virginia's favorite stories was about her mother who actively served the Czech community of Cleveland as a midwife for 42 years. She was proud of her mother, and loved her family.

She wrote, "The Sisters of St. Francis had a great influence on me. Their dedication helped me understand my own religious vocation." She entered our Congregation when she was 19 years old. She spent 52 years in the classroom teaching grades one and two. Thirty four of those years were spent in her beloved Cleveland. She wrote, "I am dedicated to our Czech schools, especially the primary grades." As late as four years ago she wrote about her ministry saying, "I loved the little children." The Diocese of Cleveland awarded her a citation that reads "in gratitude to Sr. Virginia who in a truly apostolic spirit has borne witness to Christ, the unique Teacher, through years of service in Christian education."

Characteristic of Sister Virginia's ministry was her concern for the people of the parishes where she served. Our Sisters tell stories of how she was forever collecting clothes and food for some needy family, always taking someone under her wings. What a wonderful expression of our Franciscan call!

In 1973 Sr. Virginia retired to the Motherhouse where she spent her days quietly and prayerfully, yet always participating in programs and workshops. The changes in the Church after Vatican II were difficult for Sr. Virginia, and she struggled to understand them. She celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1981, and in 1982 she retired to Our Lady of Angels. She failed rapidly these past years, suffering, and longing to be with her God.

We will remember her as a quiet, smiling, yet determined woman, a woman who loved her Czech heritage and her Franciscan vocation. We extend our sympathy to her nieces and nephews, her classmates, and all who called her friend.

Sr. Virginia, we, the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, feel privileged to call you Sister. We thank our God for the gift of your life, and the many years you shared that life with us. We count on you to ask our God to continue to bless our Congregation. We wish you the fullness of life, forever and ever. Amen. Alleluia!

