

SISTER CATHERINE LUKANICH (Lydia Marie) 7/2

Born: November 18, 1938
Parents: Frank A. and Lydia (Taylor) Lukanich
Postulancy: September 5, 1955
Novitiate: August 13, 1956
First Profession: August 12, 1958
Final Profession: August 12, 1963
Died: Friday, March 26, 1993 at 4:30 a.m. at her residence, 1924 Marlboro Lane #317, Crest Hill, IL



Ministry:

1958 - 1960 St. Pius X, Lombard IL, Grades 1, 4
1960 - 1962 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grade 1
1962 - 1964 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 2
1964 - 1966 St. Coleman, Pompano, FL, Grade 2
1966 - 1970 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Grades 1, 2
1970 - 1973 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Grade 1
1973 - 1976 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Primary Grades
1976 - 1981 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI, Primary Grades
1981 - 1985 St. Denis, Benton, MO, Primary Grades
1985 - 1986 St. Teresa, Kankakee, IL, Primary Teacher, Pastoral Ministry
1987 - 1989 Educare, Joliet, IL, Teacher
1989 - Receptionist/Secretary, Catholic Charities, Joliet, IL

Wake: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Monday, March 29, 1993
2-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Monday,
March 29, 1993 at 7:00 p.m.

Burial: Burial will be at Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:30 a.m.

Survived by: her father, Frank; brother Edward (Pete) and sister-in-law Paulette; brother Frank (Luke) and sister-in-law LaNora; sister Judy and brother-in-law James Ellenburg; sister Joanne and brother-in-law Thomas Barney; sister-in-law Gloria Lukanich; cousins, nieces and nephews, including Rev. James Barney; and friend, Patricia Jablonski.

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

Sister Catherine Lukanich was born to Frank A. and Lydia (Taylor) Lukanich on November 18, 1938 and was baptized on December 18, 1938 at St. Joseph's Church in Joliet. Her brothers, Frank (Luke), Edward (Pete) and James (deceased) and her sisters, Joanne and Judy, were an integral part of her family life as their parents taught them the ways of being together as family. Cathy first met our Joliet Franciscan Sisters as a student at St. Bernard School in Joliet. The bonds with the Sisters were strengthened during her high school days at St. Francis Academy as an Aspirant. On September 5, 1955, Cathy became a Postulant and was received into the Novitiate on August 13, 1956, receiving the name of Sister Lydia Marie. Having completed her Novitiate, Cathy began her ministry of education and service in Illinois, Ohio, Florida, Wisconsin, Missouri, and St. Joseph School in Joliet, and was Receptionist and Secretary at Catholic Charities in Joliet since 1989.

Cathy always had a deep appreciation of nature and she cherished her memories of her days in Bayfield, Wisconsin where she worked with the Native American children. Weekends in Benton, Missouri were often a time to enjoy a ride in the country or a trip to a nearby lake. Just last fall, Cathy and her friend, Associate Pat Jablonski, spent a weekend at Starved Rock State Park enjoying the glory of a golden autumn.

Cathy's life was lived in a spirit of gratitude, prayer and appreciation of the simple things of life, always grateful for each thing however small that anyone would do for her.

A highlight of her travels was a Pilgrimage to Assisi, visiting the sites important to Francis and Clare, learning about Franciscan history and participating in the many opportunities of the experience. During that trip Cathy would often take a free afternoon to climb a mountain, enjoying the beauty of the scenery that inspired Francis to compose the Canticle of the Creatures.

Since last summer, Cathy has continued in her effort to climb mountains, this time in a valiant struggle with cancer, an uphill struggle each step of the way. Throughout this final climb, Cathy was supported by the presence of her friends, her family and her Joliet Franciscan Sisters. On Friday, March 26, 1993, at 4:30 a.m., Cathy peacefully went to God.

Now Cathy enjoys the vision from the top of the mountain, the peace of the victory gained, the beauty of being face to face with the God of Creation, where she knows no more pain and no more suffering.

Cathy, we thank you for the gift of your life with us. Thank you for teaching us to value education, for inspiring us with your work with the poor, for helping us to see, through your eyes, the wonders of God's creation, and for modeling patience in suffering and gentleness in receiving care from others. May you enjoy forever the fullness of God's beauty as you live in God's presence forever. Amen. Alleluia.

