

SISTER MARIE LEO MELOCHE O.S.F. (Leocrita) 644

Born: April 8, 1892
Parents: Daniel and Marcellina Meloche
Postulancy: September 25, 1915
Novitiate: August 12, 1916
First Profession: August 12, 1918
Final Profession: August 12, 1921
Died: Tuesday, October 25, 1988 at 5:00 p.m. at
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home



Ministry:

1917 - 1918 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grade 3
1918 - 1922 Immaculate Conception, Kankakee, IL Grades 1,2,3,4 & Organist
1922 - 1923 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 3
1923 - 1924 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grade 2
1924 - 1926 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 5
1926 - 1927 Holy Family, Cleveland, OH, Grade 4
1927 - 1929 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 4
1929 - 1930 SS. Peter & Paul, Leonore, IL Grades 4 & 5
1930 - 1931 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 4
1931 - 1937 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Grades 3, 4 & 5
1937 - 1938 St. Joseph, Freeport, IL, Grades 5 and 6
1938 - 1939 St. Francis Xavier, Chicago, IL, Grade 5
1939 - 1940 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 5
1940 - 1941 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grade 5
1941 - 1943 SS. Peter & Paul, Chicago, IL, Grade 5
1943 - 1944 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Grade 3
1944 - 1945 St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Grade 3
1945 - 1946 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 3
1946 - 1947 St. Francis Assisi, Chicago, IL, Grade 4
1947 - 1951 SS. Peter & Paul, Chicago, IL, Grades 3 & 4
1951 - 1952 St. Joseph, Freeport, IL, Grades 3 & 4
1952 - 1974 St. Boniface, Chicago, IL, Grades 3, 4, 5 and General Work
1974 - 1988 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Thursday, October 27, 1988 from 2 - 7:30 p.m.
Prayer Service at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, October 27, 1988 at 7:30 p.m.

Burial: Friday, October 28, 1988 from OLA at 10 a.m. to
Resurrection Cemetery.

Survived by nephews and nieces

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

Tuesday, October, 25th was an ordinary day in the life of Sr. Marie Leo. She prayed, had lunch, talked to her aides and some of the sisters, and then at 5 p.m. quietly died. Although she had been ill these past months, no one expected her death that day.

Marie Meloche was born on April 8, 1892 in AuSable, Michigan. Her parents were Marcellina and Daniel (Thomas) Meloche. She was the only girl in a family of fourteen. Marie was very young when her mother died, and her brothers took care of her.

She entered the Congregation when she was twenty-three. She knew our Sisters from our mission in Washburn, Wisconsin. She loved to tell the story of how one day as she was praying in the Cathedral in Minneapolis, she decided to be a sister. Immediately she wrote to Mother Vincent and was accepted. She later said, "I have chosen the most wonderful life in the world, I love it dearly." She celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1978.

Sister Marie Leo (Leocreta) spent fifty-seven years as a teacher. She taught kindergarten through sixth grade in many schools. She spent fifteen years at St. Boniface, and many remember her as "taking charge" of the guard dog, Trixie. At the age of seventy-five she decided she needed some Spanish to keep up with the changing neighborhood at St. Boniface, and enrolled in a conversational Spanish course. She was always ready for new adventures.

She retired to Our Lady of Angels in 1974, and remained quite active until the last few months. Up to three years ago she was the official "mail lady", amazing others with her spirit and witty remarks. She enjoyed her outings for shopping, eating baked halibut with her faithful friend Ann, reading, working puzzles, and yes, playing bingo. She had a zest for Bingo, and it became her favorite recreation and challenge.

Today, Sr. Marie Leo would be hired as a development director. Throughout her religious life she begged for causes that were important to her. As late as 1978 she wrote letters to obtain a new station wagon for OLA, so that "the sisters could go on outings." She succeeded and the station wagon she obtained served 130,000 miles for our sisters. She had no inhibitions about asking for help. If the cause was a good one, she pursued it.

Sr. Marie Leo loved her family. Her nieces and nephews tell such fond stories about their aunt. Over all these years she visited her beloved niece, Marie, in Muskegon, Michigan. This became her family home. She brought music on the piano and harmonica to her family, new adventures, and they enjoyed her visits.



One of the most insightful stories about her is the one her nephew, Ernie, tells. As a child Ernie became an orphan. It was our Sister Marie Leo who "took charge" and became his "mother" and advocate. Through her ways and means she helped make it possible for him to complete his education. Today he is a successful attorney, and deeply grateful for his aunt. He visited her weekly and often became her companion for bingo outings. His devotion to her speaks to all of us of the loving person she was to her family.

Sr. Marie Leo lived a long life. She was 96 years old, the oldest sister in our Congregation.

These words of St. Clare at her death, might well have been Sr. Marie Leo's words:

"Go in peace, my blessed soul,
for you will have a good journey.
Go forth for He who created you
has sanctified you.
Our God has protected you as a mother does her child,
and has loved you with a tender love.
Blessed are You, God.

We are grateful for the many years Sr. Marie Leo shared with us. We will never forget her colorful, lively personality, a fiesty lady who with determination and enthusiasm met challenges and causes.

May she enjoy life eternal with her God. Alleluia.