

SISTER M. PETRONA OVERBECK O.S.F. (Adeline) 648

Born: October 4, 1906  
Parents: Joseph and Mary (Hagen) Overbeck  
Postulancy: January 22, 1923  
Novitiate: August 12, 1923  
First Profession: August 12, 1925  
Final Profession: August 12, 1928  
Died: Thursday, February 2, 1989 at 4:50 a.m. at  
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home



Ministry:

1925 - 1932 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grades 1, 2, 3  
1932 - 1934 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Grades 3 & 4  
1934 - 1935 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Grades 3 & 4  
1935 - 1938 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 8  
1938 - 1940 St. Francis Preparatory/St. Joseph Hospital, Joliet, IL  
Student Nurse  
March, 1940 St. Mary, Rock Island, IL, Grades 4, 5, 6  
1940 - 1945 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 8  
1945 - 1946 St. Raymond, Joliet, IL, Grade 8  
1946 - 1950 Sacred Heart, Hubbard Woods, IL, Grades 7 & 8  
1950 - 1951 St. Joseph, Freeport, IL, Grades 6 & 7  
1951 - 1954 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Grades 7 & 8, Superior & Principal  
1954 - 1960 St. Paul the Apostle, Joliet, IL, Grade 8, Superior & Principal  
1960 - 1962 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grade 8, Principal  
1962 - 1968 St. Cyril, Chicago, IL, Grade 8, Superior & Principal  
1968 - 1969 St. Stephen, Streator, IL, Grade 8  
1969 - 1974 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Principal  
1974 - 1975 Brookwood, Des Plaines, IL, Aide in Physical Therapy Department  
1975 - 1980 Holy Trinity, Westmont, IL, Teaching - GED  
1980 - 1983 Motherhouse, Joliet, IL, Tutoring  
1983 - 1989 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Friday, February 3, 1989 from 2 - 7 p.m. with a prayer service  
at 4:15 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Friday, February 3, 1989 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Saturday, February 4, 1989, Resurrection Cemetery.

Survived by sister, Alice Hoelscher, niece, Sister M. Nadine Overbeck and other  
nieces and nephews

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

In the early morning hours of Thursday, February 2, 1989, Sister Petrona Overbeck was born to life eternal. She died, as she had lived, gently and quietly. She was alert enough the evening before she died to join the Chaplain at OLA and our Sisters as they prayed by her bedside.

Adeline was born on the feast of St. Francis, October 4, 1906 in Teutopolis, Illinois to Mary and Joseph Overbeck. She had three sisters and three brothers. She is survived by her sister Alice Hoelscher, and many nieces and nephews. She was aunt to our own Sister Nadine Overbeck.

Sister Petrona was a farm girl, and proud of it. She loved her Southern Illinois farm heritage, and visits home were a joy to her. Sister Nadine tells us how her visits were always occasions for family and neighbors to gather together and celebrate. They were proud of their own "nun" from T. Town.

At the age of sixteen she became a postulant, living in the Congregation to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee in 1985. She appreciated her religious vocation and wrote of her desires to always become a "better religious." She felt that peaceful living, charity and congenial family spirit best express her desires for community living. Her friends describe her as a serious, quiet woman, a person who desired no "fan fare," a woman who faced suffering and death without complaint.

Throughout her religious life she expressed a desire to be a nurse. In 1938 she was one of the first Sisters in the Congregation to begin her nursing studies. But in March, 1940 there was a need for a classroom teacher, and she was asked to return to the classroom. We can well imagine how difficult this must have been for her. Return to the classroom she did, and she became well known in the Congregation as an excellent teacher. She taught in several elementary schools in Ohio and Illinois. She ministered as principal of schools for twenty-three years, serving as one of the pioneer principals of St. Paul's School in Joliet. She spoke of her ministry by simply saying, "I liked every place I've been."

As a Golden Jubilarian in 1975, she began helping adults obtain their high school diplomas while teaching GED classes at Holy Trinity in Westmont, IL. She wrote that this was a most satisfying ministry for her, and she shared in the accomplishments of her students as they received their diplomas.

She returned to Joliet in 1980, and in 1983 retired to Our Lady of Angels. After an initial resentment, she faced her cancer with an acceptance that allowed her to remain the quiet, prayerful gentle sister so many of our sisters held dear. When Sister Nadine visited her at Christmas, Sister Petrona told her that this will be the last time you will see me. She was ready for her God.

We thank her for the sixty-six years she spent as a member of our Congregation. We are blessed by the gift of who she was to us. She touched many lives with her presence, and she made this world of ours a better place. We rejoice with her now, and wish her life in abundance with our God for ever and ever, Amen.

