

SISTER M. ELENA SCHULTZ O.S.F. (Anna) 645

Born: February 24, 1911
Parents: Julius and Frances (Jurglewicz) Schultz
Postulancy: September 6, 1926
Novitiate: August 12, 1927
First Profession: August 12, 1929
Final Profession: August 12, 1932
Died: Wednesday, December 28, 1988 at 11:05 a.m. at
Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home



Ministry:

1929 - 1930 St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, OH, Grade 1 & 2
1930 - 1933 Corpus Christi, Columbus, OH, Grade 2
1933 - 1935 Guardian Angel Home, Grades 1 & 2, Prefect: Smaller Boys
1935 - 1939 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
1939 - 1944 St. Joseph, Freeport, IL, Grades 3 & 4
1944 - 1947 St. Dionysius, Benton, MO, Grades 4, 5, & 6
1947 - 1950 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Grades 1 & 2
1950 - 1951 St. Joseph, Manhattan, IL, Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4
1951 - 1953 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Grade 4 & 6
1953 - 1957 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Grades 6 & 7
1957 - 1959 St. Francis Assisi, Chciago, IL Grades 5 & 6
1959 - 1960 St. Mary, Plainfield, IL, Grades 5 & 6
1960 - 1963 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Grade 7
1963 - 1964 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 6
1964 - 1970 St. Andrew, Romeoville, IL, Grade 5
1970 - 1974 St. Paul, Joliet, IL, Grade 6
1974 - 1975 St. Bernard, Joliet, IL, Sacristan
1975 - St. Michael, Brunswick, MI, Teaching until December
1975 - 1988 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Tutor, Part-Time Teacher
at St. John and St. Joseph

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 sister: Mrs. Helen McLaughlin

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

At 11:00 a.m., on December 28, 1988, the feast of the Holy Innocents, Sister Elena Schultz died peacefully at Our Lady of Angels, after months of eagerly longing for this moment of total union with her God.

Anna Schultz was born February 24, 1911 in Cleveland, Ohio. Her parents, Julius and Frances had seven children. She dearly loved her family, and they always kept close to her. Today, only her sister Helen is alive, and she has kept close vigil with Sister Elena, visiting her on Christmas, a few days before her death.

Christmas was a significant season for Sister Elena. When she was fourteen years old she became a convert to Catholicism receiving her first Holy Communion at midnight Mass on Christmas. Two years later she entered the Congregation, and lived to celebrate her Golden Jubilee in 1979. On that jubilee day she wrote "the rest of my life will be one of continual thanksgiving to God for his generous gift of grace and love to me, and to my community."

Through many years of ministry, Sister Elena cared for orphans at Guardian Angel Home and served as sacristan. But the heart of her ministry was teaching. She loved the little children, and loved to teach them reading and religion. Just this year she wrote, "How I miss teaching the small children daily. God always listens to them, they are so in earnest. I was always surrounded by innocence. These children brought out the best in me." How significant it was that she who loved the innocence of children died on the Feast of Holy Innocents.

We will always remember the way Sr. Elena taught us how to die. Two years ago she was diagnosed as having terminal cancer. She struggled with the reality, and fought hard to keep as strong and active as she could. But she accepted her terminal illness, and allowed us, her sisters, to share deeply with her this journey to her God. Those who lived with her at the Motherhouse watched her gradually grow weaker and knew of her pain. She invited us to talk about her dying and to prepare with her for her death. We experienced her constant smile, her cheerful words, her deep faith, her thankful spirit, her loving heart. She stayed at the Motherhouse until November 25 - and then moved to OLA, eager to die, impatient to be with her God. She told us how she prayed every day ... "for the Church, for our Congregation...for the 'litany' of people she held dear and for whom she promised to pray." She spent her days thanking others for their friendship and care of her, living her gratitude for life with a deep faith. She was not afraid to tell us she loved us, and to cry with us as together we waited for her life in eternity.

August 1989 would be Sr. Elena's Diamond Jubilee. Realizing her time was limited, the Motherhouse community planned a Jubilee celebration for her on October 9, 1988. It was truly a Sr. Elena day! She gloried in the celebration...it was her day to express gratitude for her sixty years of religious life...it was our day to tell her how dear she was to all of us.

She once wrote "I want peace for my Sisters...I want to give them a helping hand... I want to accept each one as she is." Thank you Sister Elena for doing that for us. You were a living homily of what it means to live a grateful life. We rejoice with you as you celebrate JUBILEE forever and ever. Amen.

