

SISTER M. CLAVER VAJDA, O.S.F. (Mary) 677



Born: August 15, 1905 in Upper Lehigh, PA
Parents: Martin and Mary (Evasick) Vajda
Postulancy: February 1, 1929
Novitiate: August 12, 1929
First Profession: August 12, 1931
Final Profession: August 12, 1934
Died: Tuesday, December 18, 1990 at 12:01 a.m.
at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet

Ministry:

1931 - 1935 Holy Family, Cleveland, OH, Domestic Work
1935 - 1937 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Domestic Work
1937 - 1938 College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
1938 - Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL Domestic Work
January 1939 Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, OH, Domestic Work
1939 - 1945 Sacred Heart, Englewood, IL, Domestic Work
1945 - 1946 SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
1946 - 1947 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
1947 - 1950 St. Clement, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
1950 - 1952 St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
1952 - 1953 St. Mary, Columbus, OH, Domestic Work
1953 - 1954 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Domestic Work
1954 - 1960 St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, OH, Domestic Work
1960 - 1961 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
1961 - 1962 St. Stephen, Johnstown, PA, Domestic Work
1962 - 1963 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
1963 - 1964 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago, IL, Domestic Work
1964 - 1967 Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL, Dining Hall
1967 - 1968 St. Mary, Green Creek, IL, Domestic Work
1968 - 1969 St. Procop, Cleveland, OH, Domestic Work
1969 - 1971 St. Joseph, Joliet, IL, Domestic Work
1971 - 1974 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Food Service
1974 - 1983 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Food Service, Housekeeper
1983 - 1990 Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, IL, Retired

Wake: Thursday, December 20, 1990 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. with
Prayer Service at 4:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Thursday, December 20, 1990 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Friday, December 21, 1990 at Resurrection Cemetery
9:00 a.m.

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

It was the death anniversary of our foundress, Mother Alfred Moes. On December 18, 1990, at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, our Sister Claver Vajda was born to life eternal.

Since her retirement at Our Lady of Angels in 1983, our Sister Claver gradually became frail. The woman who was always erect, graceful and impeccably neat experienced the effects of strokes and crippling arthritis. For the past years she was not able to verbalize more than a "giggle". Those who knew her well said she could still understand what was happening around her. We can only imagine the frustration she must have experienced in not being able to speak. Realizing that her death was imminent, our Sisters kept vigil at her bedside these past weeks. She was ready and eager to meet her God, and we are happy for her.

Mary was born on August 15, 1905 in Upper Lehigh, Pennsylvania to Mary and Martin Vajda. She was the oldest child and had two younger sisters and one brother. One of her sisters entered the Congregation taking the name Sister Loretta but later returned home to take care of her parents. Her brother and sisters are all deceased.

Sister Claver entered the Congregation in 1929 when she was twenty-three years old. She became acquainted with our Sisters when she was working in Chicago, Illinois. She often spoke of how Sister Rose Dlouhy was an inspiration for her. She would have celebrated her Diamond Jubilee of sixty years in 1991.

Sister Claver spent fifty-one years in active ministry, serving at eighteen different places. Hers was a ministry of food service and domestic work. In reality, hers was a ministry of helping to create a home for our Sisters. There are many stories of the ways she ministered. Her kitchen was a sacred place, spotless, each item in its particular place. She was a hard worker, clean and orderly. She took pride in her cooking, even giving names such as "Dreams" and "Hundred Dollar Pie" to her specialties. In later years, her crippled hands spoke of years of serving our Sisters by washing clothes, cleaning rooms, cooking and washing pots and pans.

She always had a soft spot in her heart for younger Sisters. One of our Sisters tells the story of how it was Sister Claver who cheered her up when she was a very homesick novice, often surprising her with a candy bar or some treat left in the Sister's apron pocket.

Sister Claver was an avid reader. When she was a novice working in the kitchen she managed to sneak a look at newspapers left in the kitchen and bring the latest world news to her classmates. At that time novices didn't read newspapers.



Many who knew her well speak of her prayerfulness and deep faith life. Certainly the life of a domestic worker in the Congregation was not an easy life. It was her faith life that guided her through difficult times, and in later years the painful times of her illness.

Most of all, we will remember the hearty laugh of our Sister Claver. It was a magical laugh, and we all knew when she was present. That laugh was contagious and helped many enjoy life.

Sister Claver, we thank you for your sixty-one years as our Sister. We will miss you. You taught us important lessons of unselfish service to our Sisters in community. We rejoice with you as you are now set free from the frail condition of your body, and your spirit rejoices in God your Savior. We smile as we imagine there must be a new sound of laughter in heaven. May you experience the special joy prepared for those who served their Lord as they served others. Amen! Alleluia!