

Sisters of St. Francis

o f M a r y I m m a c u l a t e

Our Sister Therese M. Tusek was born on a farm in Lockport, Illinois, on September 23, 1928, the youngest daughter of Anthony and Julia (Kufner) Tusek. She followed sisters Julia, Verna, Helen and Ann, and brothers Anthony, Stephen, Joseph and Raymond. Because her mother was in ill health, Therese learned to cook and keep house at a very early age. She identified herself as her mother's "legs" and was grateful to her brothers and sisters for parenting her when her mother could not. Therese attended Fairmont Grade School, Lockport Central High School and St. Francis Academy.

She entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate in 1947 and made her first profession in 1949. She would have been celebrating her 75th jubilee since acceptance into the novitiate this year. Sr. M. Stephen received a B.A. in philosophy from the College of St. Francis and an M.A. in nutrition from the University of Illinois. She went on to further studies at a variety of colleges and institutes, especially in areas of spirituality and adult religious formation.

Few people have embraced as varied a professional life as Therese. In over 70 years of ministry, she worked as a high school and college teacher, dietician, pre-novitiate director, RCIA leader and parish retreat director. She ministered in many schools and parishes in Illinois, Ohio and Iowa, even applying to join our mission in Brazil in the early 1960s.

Though the last child born to her parents, Therese would eventually find herself almost first in a newly opened ministry following the Second

Alleluia!



Sister Therese Tusek, OSF

Vatican Council. Fifty-two years before a pope officially recognized the pastoral roles of women in the Church, she was a female parish minister in 1970! In her words, "I love working in parish ministry, particularly with the adults. Having a part of their deepening relationship with God and the Church is a privilege and an honor that I treasure." A pioneer even before that, Sr. Therese also set up the dietary department in our newly opened Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home in 1962.

In addition to her work, Therese enjoyed reading and traveling. Another one of her hobbies was to cook and entertain. She enjoyed being an active member of each local chapter to which she belonged. She like to prepare healthful foods in an attractive manner. She said, "I am a happy, outgoing person who enjoys a variety of experiences and am not afraid to try new things." Her life was indeed a testament to her openness – to people, places, ministries, friends, learning and hospitality. Therese, you will be missed by all who walked with you these many years! Amen, Alleluia!

Sister Therese Tusek, OSF
September 23, 1928 — February 17, 2022

<i>Born:</i>	September 23, 1928
<i>Parents:</i>	Anthony Tusek and Julia (Kufner) Tusek
<i>Postulancy:</i>	January 25, 1947
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1947
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1949
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 12, 1952
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	February 17, 2022

Ministry History

1950-1953	Teacher: English, Homemaking, Sewing, Aspirant Homeroom, St. Francis Academy, Joliet, Illinois
1953-1956	Teacher: Clothing, Home Management, Religion, Home Nursing, Junior Homeroom, American History, SS. Peter and Paul, Chicago, Illinois
1956-1957	Teacher: Home Economics/Chair Person: Department of Home Economics, College of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois
1958-1962	Teacher: Senior Girls Homeroom, Religion, English, Sewing, Home Arts, Sodality, Guidance Service, Family Living, St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, Illinois
1962-1963	Dietician: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
1963-1970	Teacher/Vocation Director: Clothing, English, Foods, Sewing, Senior Homeroom, Psychology of Living, Algebra, St. Peter High School, Mansfield, Ohio
1970-1973	Sister Associate Pastor, St. Francis de Sales Parish, Toledo, Ohio
1973-1975	Pastoral Ministry: St. Francis de Sales, Toledo
1975-1982	Pastoral Ministry: St. Charles, Toledo, Ohio
1982-1983	Pastoral Ministry: St. Joseph/Sacred Heart, Rock Island, Illinois
1983-1984	Pastoral Ministry: St. Joseph/Sacred Heart, Rock Island and St. Patrick, Andalusia, Illinois
1984-1986	Pastoral Ministry: St. Patrick, Andalusia
1986-1989	Pastoral Associate: Mother Cabrini/St. Joseph, Richland/Brighton, Iowa
1989-1991	Pastoral Associate: St. Mary Parish, Sigourney, Iowa
1991-1995	Director of Evangelization/Director Pre-Novitiate Program: Holy Angels, Aurora, Illinois, and Motherhouse, Joliet
1995-1996	Director Pre-Novitiate Program/Substitute Teacher/Provider of Respite Care: Motherhouse, Joliet
1996-1997	Pastoral Associate: Mother of Good Council Parish, Lockport, Illinois
1997-1999	Hospitality Manager: Portiuncula Center for Prayer, Frankfort, Illinois
1999-2000	Director of Pastoral Care: St. Alphonsus, Lemont, Illinois
2000-2002	Public Library Aide: Woodridge, Illinois
2002-2004	Pastoral Assistant: St. Scholastica Parish, Woodridge
2004-2005	Pastoral Assistant/Director of Worship: St. Scholastica Parish, Woodridge
2005-2006	Activities Director: Westwood Springs Apartments, Woodridge
2006-2007	DuPage County Family Service Volunteer: Stellar Living Assistance, Inc., Woodridge
2007-2008	Home Helpers, Inc. and Stellar Living Assistance, Inc., Woodridge
2008-2009	Home Helpers, Inc. and Private Practice Energy Work, Woodridge
2009-2012	Nutrition Consultant/Counselor: USF Health and Wellness Center, Joliet
2012-2022	Volunteer: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 329, Grave 12, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents, Anthony Tusek and Julia (Kufner) Tusek, and by her sisters Julia (John) Torkar, Verna Helen (Francis) Whalen, Ann (Benny) Komar, and brothers Anthony, Stephen Joseph and Raymond Tusek
<i>Survived by:</i>	Numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and dear friends

Rest in Peace, Sister Therese!