



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

On Friday evening, May 29, 2009, Sister Angela Marie Kostelec made her journey home to God, surrounded by devoted nieces, nephews, and cousins, along with her Joliet Franciscan sisters, who had kept vigil at her bedside for several days.

Born on May 6, 1908, little Angela was welcomed into life by her parents, Mary and Anthony Kostelec and baptized at St. Joseph Parish in Joliet, Illinois. The Kostelec family grew until there were nine children – two sons and seven daughters. At the age of seven, Angela lost her mother to death and at the age of nine her father died as well. Despite this enormous loss, Angela and her siblings built their lives on their parents' legacy of love and faith. Influenced by the care and concern of the Joliet Franciscan sisters, Angela Marie and two of her sisters, Frances Marie and Josephine, became members of the Congregation.

On August 12, 1925, Angela Kostelec entered the novitiate and was given the name Sr. Mary Diomedea. Throughout her religious life she taught at many schools in Illinois and Ohio. Sr. Angela Marie also dedicated herself to a variety of ministries at Guardian Angel Home, which in many ways was the love her life. While reminiscing on the occasion of her 75th Jubilee of entrance into the community, she said, "At Guardian Angel Home I learned to love and serve the children. I loved every class I ever taught and am always deeply touched when former students remember the old days – and me!"

In her years of retirement, Sr. Angela Marie was anything but "retired." As recent as this year, she was interested in learning to play the piano as well as the guitar. For a number of years, she generously volunteered wherever help was needed and she could lend a hand. She was always ready and willing. Sr. Angela Marie devoted herself to being attentive and supportive to those who, for whatever reason, could no longer care for themselves. Her personal presence was characterized by availability,

Alleluia!



Sister Angela Marie Kostelec, OSF

compassion and joy. Centering her life in prayer and self-giving, Sr. Angela Marie sought to imitate the example of Mary to whom she had great devotion.

A few weeks before her death, Sr. Angela Marie celebrated her 101st birthday. During the last few days of her life, though unable to respond verbally to those who came to visit her, she communicated a sense of peace and serenity. As those around her bedside remembered the long-forgotten acts of loving kindness and tender patience that Sr. Angela Marie had so often lavished on those for whom she cared, we can only begin to imagine the ways in which she was offering back to God each of the memories like glorious fireworks which splinter and spread and light up the sky with millions of diamond fragments, until the moment of her final breath, when gazing upon the face of God, she exclaimed, "Yes! These were the gifts of my life – all one hundred and one years of it – all of which I now give back to you, my God and my All!"

A faithful and devoted Franciscan who found joy in serving God through others, may Sr. Angela Marie now rejoice with her loved ones who have preceded her into eternal life. And may she intercede for those who celebrate the gift of her life and her love.

Amen Alleluia

Sister Angela Marie Kostelec, OSF

May 6, 1908 — May 29, 2009

Born: May 6, 1908
Parents: Anton and Mary (Stefanic) Kostelec
Postulancy: September 3, 1924
Novitiate: August 12, 1925
First Profession: August 12, 1927
Final Profession: August 12, 1930
Entered New Life: May 29, 2009

Ministry History

1927-1928 Teacher: Grade 2; St. Stephen, Streator, Illinois
1928-1938 Teacher: Grades 2, 3, 4, & 5; St. Peter; Mansfield, Ohio
1938-Sept. 23, 1939 Prefect of Senior Girls: Guardian Angel Home; Joliet, Illinois
Sept. 23-Dec. 7 Domestic Work: St. Bernard; Joliet, Illinois
Dec. 1939 Surgery & Convalescence: Motherhouse; Joliet, Illinois
1940-1941 Domestic Work: St. John the Baptist; Payne, Ohio
Sept. 8-Oct. 12, 1941 Teacher: Grade 2; St. Clement; Chicago, Illinois
Oct. 12, 1941-1942 Teacher: Grades 2 & 3; St. Joseph; Joliet, Illinois
1942-1946 Teacher: Grades 3 & 5; St. Peter; Mansfield, Ohio
1946-1949 Teacher: Grades 3 & 4; St. Joseph; Freeport, Illinois
1949-1950 Teacher: Grade 4; St. Joseph; Joliet, Illinois
1950-1954 Teacher: Kindergarten; Guardian Angel Home; Joliet, Illinois
1954-1956 Teacher: Grade 3; St. Peter; Mansfield, Ohio
1956-1957 Teacher: Kindergarten; Guardian Angel Home; Joliet, Illinois
1957-1958 Teacher: Grades 1 & 2; St. Joseph; Pesotum, Illinois
1958-1960 Teacher: Grade 3; Our Lady of Guadalupe; Chicago, Illinois
1960-1961 Teacher: Grade 2; St. Joseph; Freeport, Illinois
1961-1962 Teacher: Grade 2; St. Joseph; Elgin, Illinois
1962-1964 Teacher: Grade 4; St. Michael; Worthington, Ohio
1964-1966 Teacher: Grade 4; St. Jude; Cleveland, Ohio
1966-1968 Teacher: Grade 4; SS. Peter & Paul; Chicago, Illinois
1968-1969 Teacher: Grade 5; St. Rita of Cascia; Aurora, Illinois
1969-1971 Nurses' Aide: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois
1971-1975 Nurses' Aide & Sacristan: Motherhouse; Joliet, Illinois
1975-1976 Receptionist: Guardian Angel Home; Joliet, Illinois
1976-1979 Receptionist: St. Francis Academy Residence; Joliet, Illinois
1979-1982 Health Service: Our Lady of Angels; Joliet, Illinois
1982-1985 Assistant Gift Shop: Motherhouse; Joliet, Illinois
1985-1990 Community Service: St. Francis Academy Residence; Joliet, Illinois
1990-2003 Community Service: Motherhouse; Joliet, Illinois
2003-2009 Community Service, Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois

Wake: Wednesday, June 3, 2009, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Prayer Service: Wednesday, June 3, 2009, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Mass of Christian Burial: Wednesday, June 3, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
Burial: Thursday, June 4, 2009, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to St. Joseph Cemetery, Joliet, IL
Interment: Lot 169, St. Joseph Cemetery

Rest in Peace, Sister Angela Marie