



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

February 7, 2009, dawned as an unusually warm and sunny day, with a hint of spring and new beginnings in the air. For Sister Christine it would be a day like no other, for the Lord came for her that morning. After much pain and suffering, Sister Christine experienced a new beginning, an eternal spring in which death would be no more.

Christine Anastasia Tegeler's life began November 14, 1921, in Green Creek, Illinois. She was baptized at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Green Creek, Illinois. She was born into a family of two sisters—Magdalen and Louise—and seven brothers: Lawrence, George, Conrad, Aloysius, Henry, Frank and Alphonse. Her parents, Elizabeth Ludwig Tegeler and Henry Tegeler provided a loving home for their family. But when Christine was only ten, her father died at the age of fifty, leaving her mother to raise ten children from ages five months to nineteen years. All the older children had to help out with the farm, but they remained close. Christine believed that what sustained them as a family was their love of music. They often spent evenings on the porch singing and literally entertaining the neighbors.

In a brief sketch about her family, Christine recalls her mother playing the piano harp and singing in the church choir. She remembers a Christmas morning when Santa surprised them with an organ. Her uncle was playing and singing *Silent Night* and Christine thought she was in heaven! Christine herself was gifted with a very beautiful voice.

Christine was educated in the Green Creek Elementary School from 1928—1936. Sometimes one of our sisters would visit the school, and those visits inspired Christine to think about becoming a sister. She never lost sight of her goal and took a first step toward reaching it by becoming an aspirant in 1936. During that time she attended St. Francis Academy. She became a postulant in the Joliet Franciscan Congregation on September 8, 1938. Eventually Christine became a novice and received the name of Sister Mary Emily. She looked forward to making her first vows and eagerly awaited that final step of perpetual profession.

Alleluia!



Sister Christine Tegeler, OSF

In preparation for her teaching ministry, Sister Christine received a Bachelor's Degree from the College of St. Francis in Joliet, and a Master of Education Degree from DePaul University in Chicago. Her ministry as a teacher took her to many of our schools in Illinois and Ohio. She also served as a Principal and Superior while still teaching regular classes.

Sister Christine retired from full time teaching in 1991 but continued to serve the Lillyville community by teaching religion and volunteering as a substitute teacher. She and her dear friend, Sister Marie Therese Kaufman, remained as residents at Sacred Heart Convent in Lillyville, where they designed and made many gorgeous quilts, helped in the parish when needed, and hosted many of our sisters who stopped by to visit or to stay for a brief vacation.

During the last days of her life, Sister Christine experienced much pain and suffering. At one point, when she was healthier, she meditated on the deaths of family and friends and wrote: "I have Sister Death often on my mind. Unlike St. Francis, I find it difficult to say, 'Welcome, Sister Death!' One happy thought for me is the text from Isaiah which says: 'I have carved you in the palm of my hand!' I sing it often and think of the photo which has the little child in the large hand of God. When I am afraid, when things get troublesome, when I am weak, I place myself in the great hand of God and rest there."

Sister Christine, may you enjoy the comforting embrace of God for all Eternity!

Sister Christine Tegeler, OSF

November 14, 1921 — February 7, 2009

<i>Born:</i>	November 14, 1921
<i>Parents:</i>	Henry and Elizabeth (Ludwig) Tegeler
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 8, 1938
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1939
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1941
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 12, 1944
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	February 7, 2009

Ministry History

1941-1943	Teacher: Grade 1; St. Mary, Des Plaines, Illinois
1943-1948	Teacher: Grades 1, 2; St. Bernard, Joliet, Illinois
1948-1955	Teacher: Grade 1; St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus, Ohio
1955-1956	Teacher: Grade 2; St. Michael, Worthington, Ohio
1956-1959	Teacher: Grades 1, 2; St. Pius X, Lombard, Illinois
1959-1964	Superior and Principal/Teacher: Grades 1, 6, 7, 8 ; Holy Family, Joliet
1964-1965	Principal/Teacher: Grades 6, 7, 8; Lillyville Public School, Sigel, Illinois
1965-1966	Teacher: Grade 7; Divine Savior, Chicago, Illinois
1966-1968	Superintendent/Principal/Teacher: Grades 7, 8; St. Mary, Rock Island, Illinois
1968-1969	Teacher: Grade 7; St. Procop, Cleveland, Ohio
1969-1971	Teacher: Grade 8; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chicago
1971-1973	Teacher: East Side Learning Center, Joliet
1973-1991	Teacher: Grade 2; Lillyville Public School, Sigel, Illinois
1991-1997	Substitute Teacher/Tutor: Lillyville Public School, Sigel and Religion Teacher: Sacred Heart Parish, Lillyville
1997-2000	Volunteer: Lillyville Public School and Sacred Heart Parish
2000-2002	Tutor: St. Francis Education Center, Joliet
2002-2009	Community Service: OLA, Joliet

<i>Wake:</i>	Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Wednesday, February 11, 2009, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
<i>Interment:</i>	S8-L7-G1 Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents, Henry and Elizabeth (Ludwig) Tegeler, her brothers Lawrence (Alma) George, Conrad (Lois), Aloysius, Henry; and her sister Louise (Dale) Clagg
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her brothers Frank and Alphonse (Marj) Tegeler; and her sister Magdalen Morris

Rest in Peace, Sister Christine