



## *Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate*

Early Wednesday morning, February 18, 2009, Sister Mary Gen Wolffram, after a night of restlessness and struggling, fell into a peaceful sleep and awakened to a life we cannot even imagine! Her many years of limitations and suffering had finally come to an end. The Lord came to take Mary Gen home sometime around 2:00 AM at her cottage in Our Lady of Angels Village. It is certain that her journey with him was truly a dance of joy into her eternal reward!

Mary Genevieve Elizabeth Wolffram was born into this earthly life on December 13, 1933, in Fayetteville, Ohio. Her parents, Mary Genevieve Kelly Wolffram and Charles Harrison Wolffram were undoubtedly thrilled at the birth of their first and only daughter. Mary Gen, the youngest in the family, was brought home to five loving big brothers who were just waiting to spoil her! Now she has joined her parents and brothers—Harry, John, Joseph, Robert and Samuel.

One December 24, 1933, Mary Gen received the sacrament of Baptism at St. Martin Church in St. Martin, Ohio. From 1941 to 1949 she attended Condon Elementary School in Cincinnati, Ohio, and graduated from there in June, 1949. She entered McNicholas High School in Cincinnati and graduated in June, 1954.

For several years after finishing high school, Mary Gen worked to support her aging parents. By the time she was 28 she was fairly certain that she had a religious vocation. After her father died in 1961, Mary Gen applied for admission into the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate in Joliet. She was accepted and entered the Postulancy September 15, 1962.

During that first year in the convent, Mary Gen learned about the expectations of religious life. She conscientiously applied herself to studying the rules and customs that would shape her future. At the end of that first year, on August 13, 1963, Mary Gen entered the Novitiate and was given the name of Sister Mary Cortona.

Throughout her two years in the Novitiate, Mary Gen began the serious preparation for professing temporary and perpetual vows. She anticipated her final commitment with great joy and enthusiasm. It was not in her nature to allow limitations, challenges or other setbacks to discourage her. On the contrary, she was determined to achieve the goals on which her heart was set—to become a vital and prayerful member of the Joliet Franciscans and to serve and follow the Lord in all things.

# *Alleluia!*



## *Sister Mary Gen Wolffram, OSF*

In order to achieve her goal of service, Mary Gen earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the College of St. Francis and a Master of Science Degree from George Williams College. She also availed herself of many opportunities to attend numerous classes and workshops, most designed to enhance her skills in arts and crafts. This background provided her with what she needed to become the Director of Activities at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home. Her teaching experience also served her well for she emerged as a leader in the work she was doing at Our Lady of Angels. Mary Gen took pride in the many certificates of achievement she received which also validated her work as a Director. One award of which she was most proud was the United Way of Will County's *Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Recognition Award* in the Health and Services Category for 2005.

When Mary Gen became ill this past summer, she could no longer serve at Our Lady of Angels. For the ensuing months she lived with Sister Margaret Kacvinsky at their cottage. This time provided her with the pleasure of looking out her window at the large pond close to the house. She took great joy in watching the geese fly by in mysterious and awesome formations. This view inspired in her deep and prayerful reflections.

Throughout the rest of her illness, Sister Margaret, Mary Gen's dear friend and caregiver, remained at her side, supporting her with prayers, words of comfort and companionship. Relatives, visiting from Ohio and Kentucky whenever possible, added enjoyment to her days.

Mary Gen once exclaimed how much she loved dancing! It is comforting to imagine that the "Lord of the Dance" would whirl her into eternal bliss when he came to take her home. Amen. Alleluia.

## *Sister Mary Gen Wolfram, OSF*

*December 13, 1933 — February 18, 2009*

<i>Born:</i>	December 13, 1933
<i>Parents:</i>	Charles and Mary Genevieve (Kelly) Wolfram
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 15, 1962
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 13, 1963
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1965
<i>Final Profession:</i>	July 18, 1971
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	February 18, 2009

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### **Ministry History**

1967-1968	Receptionist: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois
1968-1969	Assistant House Mother, Office Assistant: Guardian Angel Home, Joliet
1969-1971	Teacher: Grade 6; St. Joseph, Freeport, Illinois
1971-1973	Teacher: Grade 6; St. Mary, Des Plaines, Illinois
1973-1974	Teacher: St. Michael, Worthington, Ohio
1974-1977	Assistant Activities Director, Our Lady of Angels
1977-1989	Director of Activities: Our Lady of Angels
1989-1996	Activity Consultant/Director of Activities (CTRS): Our Lady of Angels
1996-2008	Director of Activities: Our Lady of Angels
2008-2009	Community Service

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<i>Wake:</i>	Friday, February 20, 2009, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Friday, February 20, 2009, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Friday, February 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Saturday, February 21, 2009, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
<i>Interment:</i>	S8-L7-G12 Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents, Charles and Mary Genevieve (Kelly) Wolfram; her brothers, Harry, John, Joseph (Dolores), Robert and Samuel
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her sisters-in-law, Mary Alice and Paula and many nieces and nephews

*Rest in Peace, Sister Mary Gen*