



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

In early morning hours of August 22, 2009, our sister, Pamela Ann Matlosz, was drawn into the fullness of God's everlasting love, buoyed up by the words that had filled her heart with hope in the midst of suffering, she entered into the waters of that great Divine mystery where "Deep calls unto deep..." (Psalm 42:7), *singing her song of love to the God of her life*" Psalm 42:7-8.

Born to Joseph and Alice Matlosz on June 14, 1944, Pam grew up on the southeast side of Chicago. Baptized at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish, she was educated at the parish elementary schools of St. Michael and St. Mary Magdalene. She graduated from Sts. Peter and Paul High School in June of 1962. During the summer of that same year, inspired by the enthusiasm and commitment of the Joliet Franciscan sisters who were her teachers, she decided to follow the call of her heart. Pam shared with her parents and brother, Dennis, her decision to enter the Congregation as a postulant in September. In the company of her classmates, Pam began her studies at the College of St. Francis. The following year, she was received into the novitiate and given the name Sr. Dennis Mary and on August 12, 1965, she made her first profession. Identifying herself through a variety images - as a "Spouse of Christ," a "Daughter of the Church," a "disciple of Jesus," a "follower of Francis and Clare," and a "woman of compassion and wisdom," our sister, Pam, embodied the evolution of consciousness and spiritual transformation that occurred in the lives of countless women religious in the wake of the Second Vatican Council. Challenged early on in her religious life by the departures of priests and religious whom she knew well, she faced the reality of loss and change that marked her generation. She took a contemplative stance towards life amidst the chaos and uncertainty of the times. Journeying in faith, she welcomed every opportunity to follow the Spirit of God at work within her.

Trusting the inner process of her own life, Pam grew - prayerfully, patiently and resiliently - in her unwavering conviction about the sufficiency of God's love and grace. On June 1, 1975, she made her perpetual profession and in the years that followed, the course of Pam's life was profoundly influenced by movements that occurred within the Church and the broader society. Having served as an elementary school teacher for seven years, her commitment to the work of evangelization caused her to rethink how she could best contribute to the faith formation of children and adolescents. Embracing the question: *What*

# Alleluia!



## *Sister Pamela Matlosz, OSF*

*did it really mean to teach as Jesus taught?*, she dedicated herself as a coordinator of parish-based Religious Education for fourteen years. But in living with this question, she also became increasingly more attentive to the unmet needs and desires of adults in search of ongoing faith formation and spiritual development. And so, she devoted herself to further theological study and training in spiritual direction in order to minister as a parish Director of Adult Education for six years and as a retreat coordinator and spiritual director in collaboration with the Religious of the Cenacle for twelve years.

In February of 2008, Pam, along with other sisters who had been nominated for elected leadership in the Congregation, participated in a Discernment Weekend where she shared her vision of leadership and service. Little did anyone know the unanticipated way in which her capacity to lead and serve would be realized through her hope-filled witness of courage, compassion and tenacity as she touched the lives of her Joliet Franciscan sisters, her family and her friends over the course of the next eighteen months. Despite her diagnosis of lung cancer in June of 2008, Pam continued moving forward with passion and integrity, remaining steadfast in her hope and unwavering in her determination to live life as fully as she could - with no excuses for doing otherwise. With vigor and tenderness, she carried forward the mission of being a "woman of Spirit" in a time of testing and a 'woman for others' in a time of *confiança*, especially among those who had entrusted themselves to her care and concern, particularly her mother, Alice.

Sr. Pam, may the Spirit of God, who hovered over the waters of creation, enfold you now in the tender embrace of Divine love that extends from sea to sea, for all eternity. Amen. Alleluia.

## *Sister Pamela Matlosz, OSF*

*June 14, 1944 — August 22, 2009*

<i>Born:</i>	June 14, 1944
<i>Parents:</i>	Joseph and Alice (Muszalski) Matlosz
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 15, 1962
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 13, 1963
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1965
<i>Final Profession:</i>	June 1, 1975
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	August 22, 2009

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### **Ministry History**

1966—1967	Teacher: Grade 5; St. Raymond, Joliet, Illinois
1967-1973	Teacher: Grade 2; St. Pius X, Lombard, Illinois
1973-1974	Religious Education Coordinator: St. Daniel, Scottsdale, Arizona
1974-1984	Religious Education Coordinator: St. Raphael, Naperville, Illinois
1984-1987	Religious Education Coordinator: St. Michael, Wheaton, Illinois
1987-1993	Adult Education Director: St. Isidore, Bloomingdale, Illinois
1993-1996	Retreat Ministry Staff: Warrenville Cenacle, Warrenville, Illinois
1996-2008	Retreat Coordinator/Spiritual Director: Warrenville Cenacle, Warrenville, Illinois
2008-2009	Family Ministry: Oswego, Illinois
February, 2009	Family Ministry/In Transition: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois

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<i>Wake:</i>	Wednesday, August 26, 2009, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Wednesday, August 26, 2009, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Wednesday, August 26, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Thursday, August 27, 2009, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
<i>Interment:</i>	Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her father, Joseph Matlosz
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her mother, Alice Matlosz, her brother, Dennis, her sister-in-law, Barbara, and many nieces and nephews

*Rest in Peace, Sister Pamela*