



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

In 2001 as she was preparing for her Diamond Jubilee, the 60th anniversary of her profession of First Vows, Sister Armella noted that she had come full circle! In 1941 she was assigned to the kitchen and bakery of the Motherhouse and now 60 years later she returned to her original place of ministry! Army wasn't much inclined to expressing her spiritual views but when asked to give her legacy she responded: "I leave my enthusiasm to all the Sisters who now have to cook, bake and prepare meals."

This enthusiasm had long ago been noticed by her directors in the postulancy and novitiate. They described her as "markedly industrious" and "a very dependable domestic Sister." Sister Eulalia reported her as "hasty".

Before professing her final vows at the age of 26, Sister Armella wrote: "I hope always to be of the greatest service to God and to my community." She credited Sister Rosalinda who was "patient and untiring with this beginner," for her formation in the ministry of cook and baker.

Sister Armella spent scarcely five years away from Joliet, two in Payne, Ohio, where Sister Edwina commended her as, "saving, economical, a good cook and manager." At Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, Ohio, for three years our Sisters and the boarding girls enjoyed Sister Armella's delicious meals.

Mary Agnes Schuster (Sister Armella) entered as a postulant on September 8, 1938 at the age of 20. Her home parish, St. Stephen, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, boasts of 66 women who traveled far to join our Congregation. For five years preceding her entrance, Mary had been at home helping with all that a family of eight children entails. Here she learned from the family the great skills which were to be to our benefit for more than 60 years.

Sister Armella dearly loved her family! As recently as Christmas 2008 with the care of Father Michael Monshau, OP, she traveled the distance to be with

Alleluia!



Sister M. Armella Schuster, OSF

them at Tillie's home, 420 Orange Avenue, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The home that held so many memories! Her youngest brother Robert, still the "baby" in Army's words, traveled from Ohio to join in these visits. Nieces, nephews and their families, from East and West Coasts and points between gathered to celebrate Christmas, Easter, and July 4th. Each summer the cemetery, where Sister Armella's father had been caretaker, continued to be the site for the family's remembering service.

In 2000 Sister Armella spent time in Seattle, Washington, with her brother Francis as he prepared for heaven. To do this family ministry, Sister Armella left her position at Guardian Angel Home, one she held since 1967. During these 33 years she had been cook, baker, homemaker, parent, friend, mediator, mentor, fundraiser, organizer and principal inspiration to countless men and women. She and Sister Marcelyn also became synonymous with Guardian Angel Home. Sister Armella's favorite holy place was the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, constructed by former residents of the Home and refurbished by the GAH Alumni in the 1980's. Sister was ever vigilant to keep the light burning for all those passing by on Theodore and Plainfield Roads. She prayed that Mary and Bernadette would intercede for the safety of all!

We commend our Sister, friend and teacher of many of life's simple lessons into hands of the Greatest Teacher. Amen. Alleluia!

Sister M. Armella Schuster OSF

March 6, 1918 — August 18, 2009

<i>Born:</i>	March 6, 1918
<i>Parents:</i>	John and Mary (Krivatch) Schuster
<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>	August 18, 2009

Ministry History

1941 -- 1942	Kitchen and Bakery: St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
1942 – 1944	Domestic work: St. John the Baptist, Payne, OH
1944 – 1948	Kitchen, Bakery, Cafeteria: College of St. Francis, Joliet, IL
1948 – 1954	Infirmary, Bakery, Kitchen: St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
1954 – 1957	Kitchen: Our Lady of Mercy, Granville, OH
1957 – 1967	Cafeteria, Domestic work: St. Francis Academy, Joliet, IL
1967 – 2000	Food service: Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL
2000 – 2003	Sodexo Food service, Baker: St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL
2003 – 2007	Community service: Guardian Angel Home, Joliet, IL
2007 – 2009	Retired: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, IL

<i>Wake:</i>	Friday, August 21, 2009, 2:00 – 6:45 p.m. Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Friday, August 21, 2009, 4:45 p.m. Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Friday, August 21, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Saturday, August 22, 2009, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 7, Grave 8, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents, John and Mary (Krivatch) Schuster; her brothers, John, Francis (Hazel), Bill (Louise); her sisters, Christine (Henry) Roper, Rita Sullivan; her brother-in-law, Stephen Kossander; her sister-in-law, Frances Schuster
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her sister, Mathilda Kossander; her brother, Robert Schuster; her brother-in-law, Eugene Sullivan; her sister-in-law, Louise Schuster; many nieces and nephews and faithful friend, Geraldine Cullen Oram

Rest in Peace, Sister Armella