



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

When it came to living the Gospel way of life, Sister Marie Grunloh was a Sister of St. Francis through and through. How appropriate that her soul would make its journey home to God on the Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, where the words of the day's Gospel concluded: "The Kingdom of God is at hand for you." (Lk10:9) With a resolute and grateful heart, Sister Marie surely welcomed the arrival of Sister Death with great joy.

Born to John and Elizabeth (Schumacher) Grunloh, Marie was the fourth of six children. As a young girl in Green Creek, Illinois, Marie was intelligent and curious about the world around her. She received the faith passed on from her parents and extended family with eagerness and enthusiasm. Growing up at a time when two World Wars and the Great Depression shaped the lives and consciences of an entire generation, Marie was particularly attuned to God's holy manner of working in and through her life. Inspired and influenced by the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province as well as the Joliet Franciscan Sisters, Marie (as well as her dear brothers, Rev. Donatus, OFM and Rev. Melvin, OFM), was nurtured in her desire to embrace the Franciscan way of life.

Marie entered the postulancy on November 14, 1937. The following year, she became a novice and received the name of an early Christian virgin and martyr. The one and only Sister Euphemia, applied herself not only as dedicated college student, but also as a rigorous and effective high school teacher of Latin and English at St. Francis Academy, Joliet, St. Peter High School, Mansfield, Ohio and Sacred Heart, Englewood. In 1982 she joined the staff at the Center for Correctional Concerns as Assistant Director and Instructor in the GED program. Before moving to Our Lady of Angels, she spent her last 2 years as a volunteer at Guardian Angel Community Services. Professing her final vows on August 12, 1940, she celebrated 71 years of consecrated life in 2011.

Alleluia!



Sister Marie Grunloh, OSF

In the third chapter of her life, Sister Marie endeavored to read the signs of the times and respond as best she could to the pressing social needs she observed. A tireless advocate for peace and justice, she was committed to defending the human rights and dignity of all those adversely effected by poverty, lack of educational opportunity, racism, imprisonment, abuse and social marginalization.

In her later years, Sister Marie was recognized in great and small ways for her diverse contributions and volunteer services. In the final weeks of her life, Sister Marie was an example of courage, tenacity and sincerity. With labored breaths, she continued to give voice to the truth about her own mortality, her confidence in God and the consolation she found in the love of her sisters, especially those who companioned her throughout her final days.

Dying as she lived, she leaves to her Franciscan sisters and brothers, the members of her beloved family, her friends, former students and care-givers one request, that in her memory we continue the work of "being peace and goodness" in the name of the Most High God in whom she now rests for all eternity.

Amen, Alleluia!

Sister Marie Grunloh, OSF

July 8, 1920 — October 18, 2011

<i>Born:</i>	July 8, 1920
<i>Parents:</i>	John J. and Elizabeth (Schumacher) Grunloh
<i>Postulancy:</i>	November 14, 1937
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1938
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1940
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 12, 1943
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	October 18, 2011

Ministry History

1940-1942	Student: College of St. Francis
1942-1953	Teacher: Latin, Religion, Homeroom; St. Francis Academy, Joliet, Illinois
1953-1958	Teacher: Latin, English, Religion, Homeroom, St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio
1958-1959	Teacher: Latin, English, Religion, Homeroom, Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago, Illinois
1959-1972	Teacher: Latin, English, Religion, Homeroom, St. Francis Academy, Joliet
1972-1979	Counselor: St. Francis Academy, Joliet
1979-1980	Teacher / Director of Recruitment: St. Francis Academy, Joliet
1980-1982	Teacher / Focus Advisor: St. Francis Academy, Joliet
	Assistant Director / Teacher GED Program: Center for Correctional Concerns, Will County Jail, Joliet
1982-1991	Assistant Director / Teacher GED Program: Center for Correctional Concerns, Will County Jail, Joliet
1991-1995	Director of Education: Center for Correctional Concerns, Joliet
1995-2004	Instructor: Will County Jail, Joliet
2004-2008	Instructor: Joliet Junior College, Joliet
2008-2011	Volunteer: Guardian Angel Community Services, Joliet
2011	Community Service: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

<i>Wake:</i>	Friday, October 21, 2011, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Friday, October 21, 2011, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Friday, October 21, 2011, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Saturday, October 22, 2011, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 361, Grave 1, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents, John J. and Elizabeth (Schumacher) Grunloh; her brothers, Andrew, Rev. Donatus, OFM and Rev. Melvin, OFM and her sister, Cecilia Sandschafer
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her sister, Agnes Brummer; her brothers-in-law, Clem Sandschafer and Clete Brummer; sister-in-law Dolores Grunloh and numerous nieces and nephews.

Rest in Peace, Sister Marie

Reflection

Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

Joliet, IL

Sr. Marie Grunloh, OSF

Associate Margaret Connor Peifer — October 21, 2011

“Those who instruct others unto justice will shine as stars for all eternity.” (Daniel 12: 1-3)

“Whatever you did for the least of these, you did it unto me.” (Matthew 25: 40)

The first thing that Sister Euphemia taught me was “*Amo, Amas, Amat*” (I love, you love, he, she or it loves) in Latin. Marie has been part of my life since I was 13 and I am now 76 years old.

I would like to begin with all the things that Marie loved, especially her family and her community. Marie was blessed with a large family—sisters, brothers (2 Franciscan priests), nieces, nephews, and cousins. When we began to attend family celebrations, I swear that Marie went to Teutopolis or Effingham for 2 weddings and an anniversary every summer. The day before she died, she talked on the phone to her sister, Agnes, who is 93. She smiled and said, “Agnes understands.” Her admiration for her family was total.

Sister Marie loved her community and being a Joliet Franciscan. She was part of every community event. She was my associate Sister and she made every meeting even when I didn’t. Every place she lived I think that she was part of the Liturgy Committee. Even at age 90 she was part of the Peace and Justice Commission. She recently went to a Diocesan Pax Christi meeting. If the congregation was meeting or celebrating, Marie was there handing out programs.

Kathleen Kallan, a retired teacher and judge, knew Marie well. In July of 2010 at Marie’s 90th Birthday, she celebrated with us at Bob Evans for breakfast.

Marie taught Kathleen Latin all four years at the Academy. Then they taught together at SFA. Later, when Marie taught at the Will County Jail, they worked in the same arena. In the 24 years they worked together, Marie only asked Kathleen for one favor: to speak to a resident who did turn out to be innocent.

I asked Kathleen if Marie changed much during those many years. She said, “Not really. She always had the same focus and determination to serve people.”

Sister Vivian Whitehead who began the Center for Correctional Concerns chose Marie, actually seduced her from the Academy, because she was the “best teacher I knew.” The Center is still active as they celebrate the 2000th GED graduate.

A love that surfaced later in her life was her strong love of the poor and all issues of social justice. This was at the heart of her 24 years at the jail. If a student missed a class, she would go in search of them. On the weekend she and Sister Peggy Quinn would have a prayer service with them. In her 60’s she went to New York City to spend a week with Mother Teresa’s Sisters. Marie was quiet but she had courage.

As a novice I remember hearing a reading that said, “It’s not easy to live with a saint.” I didn’t get it then but I understand it better now. Some of the focus and determination that makes one good, can also make one difficult. I use my sweet German husband as an example. Jack would never miss Mass on Sunday. Thus, I have gone to Church with a migraine more than once.

Marie's love was not unrequited. Her nieces and nephews would come to visit her at Guardian Angel and invite her to come out to lunch with them. The SFA Alums, when Marie was leaving for the jail, sent her on a trip to Germany. Sister Lois Prebil reminded me at the Franciscan Autumn Feast on Sunday to see Marie.

This Monday I went to visit Marie in the morning around 8:30. She was dressed and sitting up in the group room. I kissed her on the forehead, took her hand, and said, "Hi Marie." She did not stir. I held her hand awhile and then went to the nurse. The nurse could not wake her. I said, "I will be back at 6:00 tonight," and let her sleep. When I came back, Sister Marie was playing cards with Sister Peter, Sister Johanna and Sister Louise Marie. I said, a bit irate, "You scared the (blank) out of me this morning!"

We went back to her room and had a grace-filled goodbye. As I left 45 minutes later, I met Sister Anne Wayrowski and Sister Mary Tikva. Anne said, "Don't worry. I visit and pray with Marie three times a day."

Sister Marie died surrounded by love and prayer. Again, my deepest sympathy and joy, to her family, congregation, former students and friends. She is now in Heaven getting to "*Amo, Amas, Amat*" for all eternity. Thank You. Amen. Alleluia!

Reflection written by:
Associate Margaret Connor Peifer
Mass of Christian Burial
October 21, 2011