

Sister Jennifer Makes Profession of Religious Vows



Sister Jennifer Byrnes professed her first vows as a Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate on January 8, 2011 at Our Lady of Angels Chapel in Joliet. Religious Sisters make vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and promise to abide by the Congregation's constitutions that govern them.

Sister Jennifer Byrnes is the oldest of three children of William and Susan Byrnes of Chicago. She was welcomed into the Congregation as an affiliate on September 8, 2007, after an initial period of discernment. During this time she lived with other sisters in a formation community in Joliet, studying and learning about the Congregation.

On February 1, 2009, Jennifer became an official member of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate when she was received as a novice. She was then known as Sister Jennifer, although her time of discernment continued. Soon afterwards, the Congregation reestablished their presence at Assumption B.V.M. Parish in Chicago and moved their novitiate program to this new location. Sister Jennifer along with three other Sisters began a community of presence at Assumption B.V.M. Her first year as a novice was spent in prayer and studying about religious life, the vows, the Congregation's history and charism, and Franciscan Spiritualism. During her second year as a novice, Sister Jennifer volunteered at Cook County Jail, in a program long established by Kolbe House, part of the community outreach at Assumption B.V.M. Parish.

Sister Jennifer will continue her academic studies at St. Francis University and live with a community of sisters in Joliet.



Left: Sr. Jennifer Byrnes (center) professes her vows in front of Sr. Mary Rose Lieb and Fr. Dennis Schaefer.

Right: Sr. Mary Rose presents Sr. Jennifer with a crucifix as a sign of her religious profession.



Left: Sr. Jennifer's community: Sr. Anne, Sr. Sandra, and Sr. David Ann.



Right: Sr. Jennifer's brother, Tim and parents Bill and Sue are pictured with Sr. Jennifer and Sister Mary Rose Lieb.

