



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

On the evening of May 2, 2021, our sister, Nadine Overbeck, completed her lifelong journey home to God. Amidst the springtime beauty and wonder of Creation, she passed from this life into the newness of eternal life. As a lifelong steward of the earth, it was most fitting that the Gospel reading on the day of her passing was the parable of the Vine and the Branches. As a member of a farming family, and as a Franciscan sister ever attentive to the Word of God, Nadine learned from an early age that as she remained in God, so too, God remained in her (John 15:4).

Born in Teutopolis, Illinois, on November 3, 1938, Elizabeth (Betty) was one of nine children welcomed into the world by her parents Cecelia (Ordner) and Ralph Overbeck. Coming from a large and extended family, she was a natural when it came to caring for others and celebrating life. Growing up in Effingham county, her exposure as a child and adolescent to the lives and ministries of the Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart and the Sisters of Saint Francis of Mary Immaculate, one of whom was her aunt, Sister **Petrona, proved to be a most significant influence on Nadine's** aspirations and vocational choice. Entering the Congregation as a postulant on September 8, 1957, she became a novice on August 13, 1958, and received her religious name, Sister Mary Nadine, in honor of Our Lady of Hope. Two years later, she professed her first vows on August 12, 1960. Five years later, as the winds of change brought about by the Second Vatican Council were becoming more evident, Sister Nadine sent a letter to Mother M. Borromeo requesting to profess her perpetual vows on August 13, 1965. **In accord with the spirit of the times she wrote: "I realize that it is a wonderful privilege but also a great responsibility to be a Sister in the Church today. I feel this to be my vocation and with the continued grace of God, I will be able faithfully to carry out this God-given vocation." And so, she did, over the course of the next fifty-six years.**

With an undergraduate degree from the College of Saint Francis as well as a graduate degree in Franciscan Studies through the Seraphic Institute, Sister Nadine was well prepared for the ministries of education and pastoral leadership. Beginning her ministry as a teacher in the fall of 1960, she was creative and energetic, and possessed a rare combination of abilities as an able disciplinarian and an educator with a tender-hearted sense of humor. She loved her students and they loved her in return. Whether in the midst of seven-year-olds or seventeen-year-olds, she was person-centered in her approach to teaching and learning. She communicated Franciscan values by way of example and with special care, attended to those students who were among the most vulnerable or at risk. After 18 years in elementary and high school education, most of which were spent in Ohio, she transitioned to the world of pastoral ministry in 1978. Over the course of the next decade, Sister Nadine re-purposed her talents as she invested new energies as a parish youth minister and later, as a rector at the University of Notre

Alleluia!



Sister Nadine Overbeck, OSF

Dame. As a valued mentor, she accompanied those venturing into young adulthood and generously provided them with the assurance needed to face the challenges, anxieties, disappointments and hopes of their unfolding lives.

In 1986, finding herself at a crossroads in her own life journey, Sister Nadine took advantage of the opportunity to explore new pathways for giving expression to her Franciscan vocation and her future in ministry. After participating in a yearlong renewal program in Massachusetts, she spent six years as a pastoral associate and director of religious education at a parish in Durham, New Hampshire. Sister Nadine then returned to the Columbus area, where, closer geographically to the Congregation and to her family, she happily worked for a brief period of time with pre-school children, before returning to pastoral ministry among the people of God in Zanesville, Ohio, for the next eight years. From 2004 until the time of her retirement in 2019, Sr. Nadine served the Congregation in Joliet in numerous ways, including as the Government Benefits Coordinator, as a member of the Vocation Team, as a Local Chapter Coordinator, and as a companion and care-giver for Sisters residing at Our Lady of Angels.

No stranger to the human conditions of suffering and loss, of injustice and uncertainty, of hope and resiliency, Sister Nadine, out of her own lived experience, endeavored to companion others – the young and the old, North Americans and Brazilians, insiders and outsiders, the poor and the wealthy, the broken-hearted and those filled with joy. An ambassador of reconciliation (2 Cor 15:20), in times of adversity and in times of transformation, she devoted **herself to helping others recognize the power of God's grace and presence in their lives.** As a Franciscan who cherished the significance of her religious name, Sister Nadine will be remembered as a woman of hope who dared to be a messenger of **God's love and mercy.**

May the angels welcome our Sister Nadine into Paradise. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sister Nadine Overbeck, OSF

November 3, 1938 — May 2, 2021

Born: November 3, 1938
Parents: Ralph Overbeck and Cecilia Ordner
Postulancy: September 8, 1957
Novitiate: August 13, 1958
First Profession: August 12, 60
Final Profession: August 13, 1965
Entered New Life: May 2, 2021

Ministry History

1960-1961 Teacher: Juniorate, Grade 2, Saint Francis Convent, Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet, Illinois
1961-1962 Teacher: Grade 2, St. Mary, Plainfield, Illinois
1962-1963 Teacher: Grades 5 and 6, St. Joseph, Joliet, Illinois
1963-1967 Teacher: Grade 2, Immaculate Conception, Toledo, Ohio
1967-1971 Teacher: Grades 7 and 8, St. Michael, Worthington, Ohio
1972-1977 Teacher: Religion, Bishop Ready High School, Columbus, Ohio
1977-1981 Ministry to Youth: St. Agnes, Columbus
1981-1983 Ministry to Youth/Pastoral Assistant: St. Agnes, Columbus
1983-1986 Rector: Breen/Phillips, Notre Dame, Indiana
1986-1987 Participant: House of Affirmation/Center for Education, Natick, Massachusetts
1987-1991 Pastoral Associate/Director of Religious Education: St. Thomas More, Durham, New Hampshire
1991-1992 Child Care Worker: Creative Child Care, Columbus, Ohio
1993-1996 Adult Religious Education: St. Nicholas, Zanesville, Ohio
1996-1999 Pastoral Assistant: St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville
1999-2004 Psychological Testing Director of Fellowship of Christ's Community: Central Presbyterian Church, Zanesville
2004-2007 Government Benefits Coordinator: Congregation, Joliet, Illinois
2007-2008 Government Benefits Coordinator/Temporary Professed Minister: Congregation, Joliet
2008-2016 Vocation Team Member/Local Chapter Coordinator/OLA Sister Resident Care: Congregation, Joliet
2016-2019 Volunteer: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
2019-2021 Ministry of Presence: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

Burial: Monday, May 10, 2021, Prayer, Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
Interment: Plot 329, Grave 6
Predeceased by: Her parents, Ralph Overbeck and Cecilia Ordner
Survived by: Mary Makel and Gerald Overbeck

Rest in Peace, Sister Nadine!