



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

“If you learn anything else from the Magi at least remember this one thing. Keep your eye on the star. It will lead you home.”

Such were Sr. Clarence's thoughts written years ago. In the silence and stillness of early morning December 23, 2018, that star she followed so faithfully throughout her life led Sr. Clarence from her earthly home at Our Lady of Angels to her home in eternity.

On May 6, 1928, Dorothy Agnes Mary Golla was born to her parents, Clara (Proppe) and Peter Golla. Dorothy grew up on Chicago's South side with her sisters, Loretta (Oakley) and Mildred (Kuzma). The Golla Family were staunch members of SS Peter and Paul Parish where Dorothy and her sisters attended the parish grade and high school. It was there that Dorothy's vocation was inspired and nurtured by the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate.

Dorothy's dream of serving the Lord as a Joliet Franciscan was realized on September 4, 1946, along with 17 other young women. Completing her Postulancy, she entered the Novitiate August 12, 1947, and became known as Sister M. Clarence. She professed First Vows August 12, 1949, and three years later made her Final vows, committing herself to following in the way of St. Clare and St. Francis.

In preparation for her teaching ministry, Sister Clarence earned a bachelor's degree and a certificate from the Seraphic Institute of Theology from the College of St. Francis (USF).

Sister Clarence began her 25 years of teaching primary grades at St. Mary, Columbus, Ohio, in 1949. From there she taught double grades in the “Little Blue Building” belonging to Pure Heart of Mary Parish in Shelby, Ohio. Several Sisters who lived with Sr. Clarence during her teaching years agreed that she was thorough in her teaching, firm with a twinkle in her eye, and that she captivated and charmed her little ones by her detailed story telling. She loved her children and they loved her. Who would not love a teacher who would host a “Going Away Party” for a little second grade boy who had to move far away?

Preparing her second graders for their First communion was the highlight of every one of her 25 years of teaching. To prepare the children to receive Jesus was her gift to them, a sacred time, as she herself radiated her love for them and the One they would receive. During her years at St. Andrew Parish in Romeoville, Illinois, (Vatican II Era) Sr. Clarence urged the Pastor to initiate the practice of receiving one's First Communion during a “Home Mass” in the presence of family and friends. She also started the practice at St. Michael Parish in Brunswick, Michigan. She knew that for many family members or friends these celebrations could be times of special grace, change, or renewed faith.

# Alleluia!



*Sister M. Clarence Golla, OSF*

It was during her last few years at St. Michael's that Sr. Clarence became interested in the Congregation's new ministry, St. Clare House of Prayer in Kankakee, Illinois. For several summers she volunteered her services at St. Clare's. Finally in July of 1973 she was given the opportunity to become a Core-member. That was the beginning of her 35 year journey at St. Clare's. In her Magi reflection she wrote, “The star I am to keep my eye on and follow is the Will of God...to live in service to others.” She added, this meant taking advantage of opportunities, even those that would take me out of my comfortable cocoon.” That she did serving through her life of solitude, prayer, hospitality and the care of the poor.

On any day, you would find Sr. Clarence engaged in one or more of the above. Some days she would be up at 3:00 a.m. baking apple pies; summer saw her planting, harvesting, canning and sharing the fruits of her garden with guests and friends. There were the “To-do-lists” for Larry, the maintenance man, whom she would proudly point out as “Her Baptismal God Child,” and the ordinary tasks around the house. Caring for the poor, however, was her passion. Hours and days were spent in preparing for her regular trips to the homes of those in need. A driver she was not, but drivers she had. God did hear the cry of the poor and sent Sr. Clarence. Often one would find her curled up in her chair, writing. Sr. Clarence was gifted with words, both spoken and written. She wrote at great length about ordinary things that spoke to her of God: “A Grape,” “A Blotter,” “A Deck of Cards,” and “Our Beloved Poor—Their Lesson to Us.” Among her writings were letters written under the name of “Dorothy Golla” to Barack Obama, when he was Senator and then President. There were letters of congratulations, agreement, concern, and the promise of prayer, dated 2005 through 2010. All were answered!

In 2008, when the House of Prayer relocated from Kankakee to Joliet, the direction of the star let her to Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home where her ministry became one of presence and prayer. She continued her writing, enjoyed gifts of “Gayety Candy,” and joined in activities as much as she was able. Time weakened her, but she kept her smile and, in her own way, her eye on the Star.

Sister Clarence, we give thanks for your 72 years of following that Star as a Joliet Franciscan. Without a doubt the Magi were there to greet you as you entered your eternal home. Alleluia, Alleluia!

## *Sister M. Clarence Golla, OSF*

*May 6, 1928 — December 23, 2018*

*Born:* May 6, 1928  
*Parents:* Peter A. Golla and Clara A. Proppe  
*Postulancy:* September 4, 1946  
*Novitiate:* August 12, 1947  
*First Profession:* August 12, 1949  
*Final Profession:* August 12, 1952  
*Entered New Life:* December 23, 2018

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### **Ministry History**

1949-1953 Teacher: Grade 2, St. Mary, Columbus, Ohio  
1953-1960 Teacher: Grades 1 & 2, St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, Ohio  
1960-1964 Teacher: Grades 1,2,3, &4, Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, Ohio  
1964-1968 Teacher: Grades 1 & 2, St. Andrew, Romeoville, Illinois  
1968-1973 Teacher: Grades 1 & 2, St. Michael, Brunswick, Michigan  
1973-2008 Core Member: St. Clare House of Prayer, Kankakee, Illinois  
2008-2018 Community Service: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet

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*Wake:* Thursday, January 3, 2019, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Prayer Service:* Thursday, January 3, 2019, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Mass of Christian Burial:* Thursday, January 3, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet  
*Burial:* Friday, January 4, 2019, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois  
*Interment:* Section 8, Lot 344, Grave 1, Resurrection Cemetery  
*Predeceased by:* By her parents, Peter A Golla and Clara (Proppe) Golla; her sisters: Loretta Oakley, Mildred Kuzma  
*Survived by:* Nieces and nephews

*Rest in Peace, Sister Clarence!*