



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

For some time, Sister Mariarthur Hamann had been ready and eagerly waiting for the Lord to call her home, often wondering why it was not happening. Then, in the early hours of the morning of March 7, the Lord finally called and she quietly slipped into her new life.

Eleanore Hamann came into this world during the years when the decisive battles of World War I were raging. Born in Chicago on November 30, 1916, to the late Rose and William Hamann, she was the middle of three daughters - Elaine (Wermich) the oldest and Shirlee (Heinz) the youngest. She first met the Joliet Franciscans at St. Paschal's in Chicago, and in the second grade she said to herself, "That's what I am going to be when I grow up!"

After attending Alvernia High School in Chicago for two years, she finished her high school education at St. Francis Academy in Joliet. Eleanore entered the postulancy of the Sisters of St. Francis on September 8, 1932, at the young age of 15, the youngest in her class. Because of her age, her parents had to give permission for her to enter, which they readily did. Her pastor, Fr. Heimsath, sent a letter of recommendation for Eleanore and three of her classmates, Anna (Clarita) Klainoski, Mary Kirk and Kathleen Kirk, writing that "I am sending you a good part of my parish."

Entering the novitiate on August 12, 1933, she received the name Sister Mary Arthur. She professed her first vows on August 12, 1935, and with "joy and faithfulness," professed final vows in 1938. Sister Mariarthur earned a bachelor's degree at the College of St. Francis (University of St. Francis) and a Master of Arts Degree in Education at DePaul University in Chicago.

Her varied ministries, which she described as a "blizzard of activities and responsibilities," found her in various locations in Ohio, Illinois, Colorado and Wisconsin. Each new position challenged her as teacher, principal, organist, superior, diocesan school consultant, elementary school supervisor, director of diocesan teacher personnel, adult education teacher and office manager. She felt that she was blest because of the "delightful challenges" of each new position. She wrote, "I was blessed with challenges, successes, failures and the occasional blahs."

# Alleluia!



*Sister Mariarthur Hamann, OSF*

As the renewal in religious life bloomed as a result of Vatican II, she found herself "drinking deeply and openly of the renewal challenges." Sister Mariarthur was one who embraced and savored change and she felt that the renewal simplified her life.

In her later years at Our Lady of Angels, she was an avid handwritten letter writer and card player, a voracious reader and worker of crossword puzzles, and always found time to keep up with the news of the world, poring through the newspaper each morning.

Reflecting on her 100+ years of life, especially her years as a Joliet Franciscan, she wrote in her memoirs, "What a challenge and gift now to mull over 100+ years of life in an attempt to pull out the threads that have created meaning and richness to all that has gone before...100 years are too few to thank God adequately for my attempts to be total love for Him, for the multiple blessings that have been mine. An eternity will not be long enough to thank God for the blessings of my vowed life and for the strength to have persevered in it. Clearly, grace has sustained me in faithfulness."

In reflecting on dying, she recently wrote, "When God calls me home, I will go knowing that he will share His love, joy and risen life with me. My transitus will be my passing to the fullness of eternal life and my ability to thank God who is so great that I do not doubt that the best is yet to come."

Sister Mariarthur, you now know what the "best" is - for it has now come to you in its fullness.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

## *Sister Mariarthur Hamann, OSF*

*November 30, 1916— March 7, 2019*

<i>Born:</i>	November 30, 1916
<i>Parents:</i>	William Hamann and Rose Gruenke
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 8, 1932
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1933
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1935
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 12, 1938
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	March 7, 2019

### **Ministry History**

1935-1936	Student: College of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois
1936-1943	Teacher: Grades 4, 5, 6, & 7, Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Ohio
1943-1948	Teacher: Grade 7, Immaculate Conception, Toledo, Ohio
1948-1949	Teacher: Grade 8, St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, Illinois
1949-1951	Teacher: Grade 7, St. Francis de Sales, Toledo, Ohio February: Grade 8, Sacred Heart, Hubbard Woods, Illinois
1951-1953	Teacher: Grade 8, St. Clement, Chicago, Illinois
1953-1960	Teacher: Grades 3-8, Superior, Principal, Organist, St. Jude, Joliet, Illinois
1960-1961	Teacher: Grade 8, St. Pascal, Chicago, Illinois
1961-1962	Teacher: Grades 5 & 6, Organist, St. John, Loveland, Colorado
1962-1963	Teacher: Grade 7, Organist, St. Stephen, Streator, Illinois
1963-1964	Teacher: Grade 8, St. Ann, Lansing, Illinois
1964-1965	Teacher: Grade 8, Organist, Divine Savior, Chicago, Illinois
1965-1969	Teacher: Grade 8, Organist, St. Francis de Sales, Chicago, Illinois
1969-1975	Diocesan Educational Consultant, Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin
1975-1980	Consultant/Director of Teacher Personnel, Diocese of Joliet, Illinois
1980-1982	Administrative Assistant, St. Mary, Plainfield, Illinois
1982-1984	Principal, St. John, Joliet, Illinois
1984-1986	Administrative Secretary, St. Raymond, Joliet, Illinois
1986-1990	Patient Coordinator/Office Manager, Will County MS Office, Joliet, Illinois
1990-1993	Teacher: Adult Education Center, Bolingbrook, Illinois
1993-1994	Education Consultant, Private Industry, Romeoville, Illinois
1994-2005	Volunteer Ministry, OLA/Silver Cross Hospital, Joliet, Illinois
2005-2019	Community Service, Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, Illinois

<i>Wake:</i>	Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Thursday, March 14, 2019, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 345, Grave 5, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	By her parents, William Hamann and Rose (Gruenke) Hamann; her sister, Elaine Wermich, Shirlee Heinz
<i>Survived by:</i>	Nephews and Nieces

*Rest in Peace, Sister Mariarthur!*