

# *Sisters of St. Francis*

of Mary Immaculate

On the morning of April 28, 2022, surrounded by our sisters and members of her family, Sister Margaret Ann Zimmerman peacefully passed from this life into eternal life. Confident in the promises made to her by the Risen Lord, she brought to completion the legacy of love and faithfulness that characterized her 101 years. Holding fast to the words of her favorite Psalm 90: "Teach us how short our life is, so that we may become wise," she departed from us a truly wise and beloved sister.

On March 14, 1921, in Hammond, Indiana, Mary Margaret, was born to her parents, Margaret Frye and Albert J. Zimmerman. One of five children, she treasured her sister, Jane, and her three brothers, Albert, Thomas and James. Holding in her heart, a unique love for each one, she shared a special bond with her brother Albert, a diocesan priest of the Diocese of Gary and Thomas, a Holy Cross priest and missionary in Bangladesh for 40 years.

As a child, Mary Margaret attended St. Joseph Grade School and as an adolescent she attended Catholic Central High School, now known as Bishop Noll Institute. Making her way to register at the College of St. Francis, accompanied by her mother, one of the first Joliet Franciscans she met was Sister Eulogia, who had been a high school classmate of her mother. Sadly, for Mary Margaret, Mrs. Zimmerman, died within the year of cancer. Despite the loss, Mary Margaret successfully completed her bachelor of arts degree with a major in biology and a minor in music. Inspired by the "simplicity, kindness and understanding" of the college sisters who were her teachers and mentors, came to recognize her own calling to the Franciscan way of life and the vocation that she would embrace day by day, ever more deeply, all the days of her life.

Mary Margaret entered the postulancy of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate on September 7, 1943. She was received as a novice on the feast of St. Clare on August 12, 1943, clothed by Sr. Eulogia, and given her religious name Sister Mary Margaret Ann. Two years later, she made her first profession of vows and after three years, she professed her final vows on August 12, 1949.

In 1946, Sister Margaret Ann began her teaching career in Chicago, Illinois. Moving to Ohio, she generously committed herself to the instruction and care of at-risk young women at Marybrook Academy in Maumee from 1952 to 1959. Among other teaching assignments, she taught at St. Mary's High School in Columbus, from 1962-1967. Until the school closed she specialized in music education. Afterward, until 1985 she continued serving as the parish organist, liturgist, sacristan and trainer of altar servers at St. Mary's Church. Carefully selecting

## Alleluia!



*Sister Margaret Ann Zimmerman, OSF*

liturgical music in her role as "minister of song," she encouraged her students to find their voices and helped them to take joy in praying and performing something beautiful for God and for God's people. For her own part, she found moments of grace in the countless special feasts, weddings and funerals to which her music ministry brought solemnity, joyfulness and consolation.

In 1985, Sister Margaret Ann returned to the Joliet area, and embarked on a new venture at St. Francis Academy (later Joliet Catholic Academy), where she wore "many hats," including that of health officer, a fairly demanding responsibility that involved keeping meticulous student health records in accord with the Health Laws of the State of Illinois. In 2005, Sister Margaret Ann became a resident at Our Lady of Angels, where she devoted herself to the ministry of community service.

Throughout her life, Sr. Margaret Ann, fondly remembered by dear friends as "Zimmy," delighted in doing many things, among them going to concerts, listening to music, keeping abreast of the news, and crocheting afghans, doilies, and other creations of her own design, that she gave as gifts to family and friends as well as charities. An avid reader, and in her later years, an avid listener of tapes and CDs, she liked good books, especially mysteries, novels and spiritual writings. A Franciscan sister of prayer and attentiveness to the Lord, she stewarded well the insights gleaned from her study of Franciscan Theology at the Seraphic Institute. A dearly loved aunt and cousin, and a cherished friend of Sisters Jane Marie, Patricia Mitchell, Roberta Naegele, and JCA colleague, Sheila Frye, along with many others, she brought love, laughter and music.

Sharing with Francis of Assisi, the experience of the gradual loss of her eyesight, Sister Margaret Ann also shared with him a capacity for seeing with the heart, always attuning herself to the needs, hopes and dreams of others. And now, her journey home to God is complete! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## *Sister Margaret Ann Zimmerman, OSF*

*March 14, 1921— April 28, 2022*

|                          |                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Born:</i>             | March 14, 1921                        |
| <i>Parents:</i>          | Albert J. Zimmerman and Margaret Frye |
| <i>Postulancy:</i>       | September 7, 1943                     |
| <i>Novitiate:</i>        | August 13, 1956                       |
| <i>First Profession:</i> | August 12, 1944                       |
| <i>Final Profession:</i> | August 12, 1949                       |
| <i>Entered New Life:</i> | April 28, 2022                        |

---

### **Ministry History**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1946-1947 | Teacher: Religion, English, Music Appreciation, St. Clement High School, Chicago, Illinois  |
| 1947-1950 | Teacher: School Music, Music Appreciation, Piano Lessons, Organist, Biology, Grades 3, 4 and 5 / Organist, Sacred Heart, Englewood, Chicago, Illinois |
| 1950-1951 | Teacher: Freshman Homeroom, Religion, English, Biology / Organist, St. Francis de Sales, Chicago  |
| 1951-1952 | Teacher: Grade 6 / Organist, Corpus Christi, Columbus, Ohio   |
| 1952-1959 | Teacher: Grades 7, 8, Music Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, Choir, Piano, Voice, Religion, Spelling, Reading, Glee Club / Organist / House Mother                  |
| 1959-1961 | Teacher: Music / Organist, Immaculate Conception, Columbus, Ohio  |
| 1961-1962 | Teacher: Music, Music Appreciation / Organist / Glee Club, Holy Family, Cleveland and St. Mary, Columbus, Ohio  |
| 1962-1985 | Teacher / Organist: St. Mary, Columbus  |
| 1985-1993 | Health Care Service: St. Francis Academy, Joliet, Illinois  |
| 1993-2005 | Medical Records Clerk: Joliet Catholic Academy, Joliet  |
| 2005-2008 | Special Ministry: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet  |
| 2008-2022 | Community Service: Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet   |

---

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <i>Interment:</i>      | Section 8, Lot 345, Grave 9, Resurrection Cemetery   |
| <i>Predeceased by:</i> | Her parents, Albert J. Zimmerman and Margaret Frye; her brothers, Rev. Albert Zimmerman, Rev. Thomas Zimmerman and Mrs. James Francis (Birdie) Zimmerman; and her sister, Jane Elizabeth Zimmerman |
| <i>Survived by:</i>    | Sister-in-law, Birdie Zimmerman, her niece, Susan Ranieri, and her cousins Theresa Maxwell and Shirley Kondo   |

*Rest in Peace, Sister Margaret Ann!*