



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

Sister Margaret Kacvinsky lived her final days with us as she had lived her life – with a gentle spirit, with kindness, with grace, with peace of heart, with love, and with great courage. She quietly slipped into the arms of her beloved early in the evening on September 12, the feast of the Holy Name of Mary, to whom she had a great devotion. This was evident from her earliest years in formation since every request made to the Reverend Mother for renewal of vows invoked the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The oldest of four children, Margaret was born on August 26, 1937, in Streator, Illinois to the late Margaret (Renner) and Stephen Kacvinsky. Also preceding her in death were her brother Michael and sister Jennifer. Her brother Stephen lives with his wife in Salisbury, Missouri.

The parish grade school in Streator, St. Stephen and now renamed St. Michael the Archangel, and Streator Township High School provided Margaret's early education. She was drawn to our Franciscan way of life through the example of the Joliet Franciscan Sisters who taught her at St. Stephen. Entering the postulancy in Joliet in 1956, she had the secret desire to minister with the Native Americans in Bayfield Wisconsin, a mission begun by the Congregation in 1879. Upon entering the novitiate she received the name Sister Miguel, professed her first vows in 1959 and final vows on August 13, 1964.

Sister Margaret's education included a Bachelor's of Arts degree from the College of St. Francis in 1960 where she majored in history and minored in Spanish. Further studies included a certificate in gerontology from Sangamon State, and studies in Spanish at The Ohio State University, the Hispanic Institute at the University of Dayton, and the Foreign Center of Arts and Language in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Her Spanish minor at CSF had opened her heart to not only the language but also the culture of her Hispanic sisters and brothers, especially those who found themselves in a world where they were not accepted.

Sister Miguel was missioned to teach Spanish in high schools in Illinois and Ohio. Spanish became her area of concentration in her teaching and her love. After some years of teaching in Illinois, she became Chair of the Language Department at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Louisville, Ohio. With a desire to teach and be of service to the Spanish-speaking poor, Sister Margaret moved back to Illinois where she taught Spanish in the Pilsen area of Chicago, a multi-cultural area, at St. Procopius High School. Even considering her years of teaching, Margaret did not see herself as a classroom teacher in the traditional sense, but saw herself constantly responding to needs of not only her students but also their families. Her ministry in the field of education came to completion with her work as Religious Education Coordinator for St. Mary Parish in Moline, Illinois, where she was able to continue to use her gifts of language, understanding, and love for her Hispanic sisters and brothers.

Her life changed dramatically when she became Administrative Assistant and Secretary at Our Lady of Angels, a ministry she loved and excelled in for 18 years. While at OLA, she began to appreciate the beauty and wisdom of the elders and "how God doesn't always let us call our plans the best." She said: "Always plan for 'A', 'B' or 'C' – and

Alleluia!



Sister Margaret Kacvinsky, OSF

maybe all 3 and yes, KEEP SMILING! Working with the elderly and the staff really was a spiritual experience as I really had a good opportunity to observe just how man proposes and God disposes."

Then, in 1997, recognized for her bi-lingual talents, Margaret was invited to minister at the Hispanic Church in Joliet, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, where she served as bookkeeper and a welcoming secretary for 15 years. She referred to her ministry at that time as "being the central information agency for parishioners." There were many new arrivals from Mexico and Margaret was the welcoming presence that made them feel at home. Not satisfied with that ministry alone, she also worked with the migrant workers in Joliet.

But her original desire, back to 1956, to minister with the Native Americans in Bayfield, still burned in her heart. So in 2013, Margaret made that desire, that call, known to the administration and her dream was finally realized. She began her ministry at Our Lady of the Lake Cluster Parishes in Ashland, Wisconsin, as bookkeeper, a ministry that she loved, with people she loved, in a place that she loved.

When asked what her Franciscan vocation meant to her, she said: "My Franciscan way of life has blessed me with many opportunities to appreciate and enjoy God's wonderful creation here in the U.S., in Assisi and now in the North Woods. God is Good!" Those words rang loudly from her heart so filled with gratitude, with appreciation, with love and with joy.

When asked to identify a memorable event or ministry, she said: "It all flows as a single stream. One surprise at a time – a big city like Chicago or a city on the Mississippi or the North woods – mainstream Americans, Hispanic or Native American – all unique and beautiful."

Yes, Sister Margaret, one surprise at a time. A few months ago, at the time of your 60th Jubilee, you were surprised by the onset of rapidly declining and debilitating health - something you carried with grace and courage and dignity, inspiring all who were fortunate to be part of your journey. In your life and in your suffering and death you truly have been an inspiration to us all. You promised in 1964, in your request for final vows, to be a loyal and obedient daughter of our community, and indeed, you have kept your promise! We know that you are now with Jesus and Mary. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Sister Margaret Kacvinsky, OSF

August 26, 1937— September 12, 2019

<i>Born:</i>	August 26, 1937
<i>Parents:</i>	Stephen and Margaret (Renner) Kacvinsky
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 8, 1956
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 13, 1957
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1959
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 13, 1964
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	September 12, 2019

Ministry History

1959-1960	Full time student: College of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois
1960-1962	Teacher: Grades 3 and 4, St. Mary, Des Plaines, Illinois
1962-1963	Teacher: Grade 4, Cleveland, Ohio
1963-1966	Teacher: Spanish, Religion, Language Arts, Visual Aids, Bishop Ready High School, Columbus, Ohio
1966-1971	Teacher/Chairperson: Spanish, Red Cross, CCD, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Louisville, Ohio
1971-1977	Teacher: CCD, Spanish, St. Procopius, Chicago, Illinois
1977-1979	Religious Education Coordinator: St. Mary Parish, Moline, Illinois
1979-1997	Administrative Assistant: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois
1997-2013	Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper: Mt. Carmel Parish, Joliet, Illinois
2013-2019	Bookkeeper: Our Lady of the Lake, Ashland, Wisconsin

<i>Wake:</i>	Thursday, September 19, 2019, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Thursday, September 19, 2019, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Thursday, September 19, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Friday, September 20, 2019, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 345, Grave 3, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents: Stephen and Margaret (Renner) Kacvinsky, her brother, Michael , and her sister, Jennifer
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her brother Stephen (Joan) Kacvinsky

Rest in Peace, Sister Margaret!