



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

In the early hours of the morning of September 5, 2020, Sister Margaret Rose Sczeniak was called to her eternal reward peacefully, but suddenly, and without warning. She was born on December 25, 1933, a Christmas gift to her parents Sabina (Ptaskiewicz) and Walter Sczesniak. Given the name Barbara Ann, she and her surviving sister, Susan Pearson, were raised in Chicago. She attended W. K. Sullivan grade school and graduated from SS. Peter and Paul High School where she met the Joliet Franciscans. She entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate in 1950, she was given the name Margaret Rose. She professed her first vows in 1953.

She received her B.A. in Education from the College of St. Francis (now University of St. Francis) in Joliet and earned an M.A. in History from DePaul University, Chicago. Sister Margaret Rose's educational ministry encompassed 26 years in elementary education as a teacher and/or principal and 21 years in the field of educational administration and adult education as a teacher in the ESL and GED programs. Serving as an instructor at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, she was the co-coordinator of the "People Educating People" Program. She also taught at the Illinois Chinese Cultural Center in Westmont, Illinois. Sister Margaret Rose loved her ministry at the Cultural Center and would often sing and talk in Chinese. It was only after the listener was intrigued would she "confess" to making it all up since she had not mastered the Chinese language at all!

For four years, Sister Margaret Rose ministered as the Local Coordinator of the Sisters living at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, and then returned to the education field as an educator at Joliet Junior College in the Division of Adult and Family Services where she assisted foreign students in acquiring the necessary language skills. In 2005, she left the classroom to serve in the area of respite care and pastoral ministry to the elderly in the Joliet area. In 2010 she became a resident at Our Lady of Angels. She did not retire from serving others, but extended her loving care through "Prayer and Presence," walking the halls, encouraging residents,

Alleluia!



Sister Margaret Rose Sczeniak, OSF

staff and visitors, or sitting quietly in her special place in chapel, being present to the Lord in prayer.

Sister Margaret Rose had many special gifts, among them the gifts of humor and spontaneity. She enhanced these gifts by attending "clown school" and was known as "Blossom" the clown, having fun performing at parties, picnics, and in classrooms, hoping to help those around her "Blossom with Life." She loved plant and flower arrangements, watching old movies, card playing and pizza parties. Sister Margaret Rose also had an intensely serious side. She felt very passionate about issues and would share her views freely. Her nephew Scott, of whom she was very fond, gave her a sign which hung in her room. It said: "Don't mess with Margaret." Her own words tell us this: "I have called upon the Spirit of my life to direct me. I must also continue to "be attentive to my own heart's demands hidden beneath my defenses."

Sister Margaret Rose helped organize "Watchful Waiting," the prayer vigil for OLA Sister residents in the final stages of their earthly journey. Now she waits and watches over each of us from the place she shares with the many she watched, waited and prayed for here. Margaret Rose, we thank you for your sense of humor and the many gifts and talents which you so generously shared with your family, your students, and your congregation as you witnessed the Gospel message with authenticity and simplicity. Assist us as we strive to "Blossom" in our life!
Amen! Alleluia!

Sister Margaret Rose Sczesniak, OSF

December 25, 1932— September 5, 2020

<i>Born:</i>	December 25, 1932
<i>Parents:</i>	Walter C. Sczesniak and Sabina (Praszkiewisz) Sczesniak
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 4, 1950
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 12, 1951
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1953
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 13, 1956
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	September 5, 2020

Ministry History

1953—1957	Teacher: Grades 3 and 5, Immaculate Conception, Toledo, Ohio
1957—1961	Teacher: Grades 5, 6 and 8, St. Ann, Lansing, Illinois
1961—1963	Teacher: Grade 8, Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet, Illinois
1963—1971	Superior and Principal: Grade 8, Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby, Ohio
1971—1973	Principal: St. Cecilia, Columbus, Ohio
1973—Dec. 1973	Teacher, Grade 5, St. Michael, Worthington, Ohio
Dec. 1973—1975	Teacher: Grades 5 and 6, St. Michael, Fremont, Michigan
1975—1976	Teacher: St. Joseph, Elgin, Illinois
1976—1977	Volunteer: St. Andrew, Romeoville, Illinois Asst. Coordinator: Our Lady of Angels; Joliet Survey of Parishes, Diocese of Joliet
1977—1979	Teacher: Grade 5, Annunciation, Aurora, Illinois
1979—1980	Administrator/Coordinator GED: Holy Trinity, Westmont, Illinois
1980—1984	Teacher: Developmental Learning Lab, GED, ESL, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois
1984—1995	Teacher: Adult GED, ESL Program, PEP Program, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois
1995—1997	Coordinator of Sisters' Services: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois
1997—1999	Sisters Local Coordinator: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois
1999—2001	ESL: Joliet Township High School, Joliet, Illinois
2001—2005	ESL: Joliet Junior College, Joliet
2005—2008	Instructor: Adult Family Services, Joliet Junior College, Joliet
2008—2010	Volunteer Respite Care: Ministry to Elderly, Private Tutor, Joliet, Illinois
2010—2020	Community Service, Prayer and Presence: Our Lady of Angels, Joliet, Illinois

<i>Burial:</i>	Monday, September 14, 2020, Prayer, Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois
<i>Interment:</i>	Plot 343, Grave 8
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents, Walter C. Sczesniak and Sabina (Praszkiewisz) Sczesniak
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her sister, Susan Pearson and nephew, William (Scott) Pearson, his wife April and son, Tristan

Rest in Peace, Sister Margaret Rose!