

Sister Marie Schramko Celebrates Her 100th Birthday



Sister Marie Schramko, OSF

On February 10, 2017, the Joliet Franciscan Sisters celebrated the birthday of their third centenarian of the past 10 months, Sister Marie Schramko. The celebration began at 10:00 am at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home (OLA). Joliet Mayor, Bob O'Dekirk congratulated Sister Marie on her 100th birthday and said the city's proclamation would be forthcoming. Illinois State Senator Jennifer Tarrant Bertino was also present while proclamations from the Illinois State Senate, Governor Bruce Rauner and Bishop Daniel Conlon were read aloud. Brother Michael Brickman, Mrs. Jackie Hanke, Ms. Louise Crocco, Mrs. Pat Burke, Ms. Jude Abrams, and Ms. Paula Ferante who worked with Sister Marie over her more than 50 year ministry at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale travelled from Florida to surprise Sister Marie.

The second celebration was held at 2:00 p.m.

during the recreation hour at OLA. A piano player serenaded Sister Marie as residents and staff sang Happy Birthday to her delight. Sister Marie then asked the other two centenarians, Sister Mary Franz and Sister Mariarthur Hamann to join her at her table while her birthday cake was cut.

At the beginning of the 4:00 P.M. Mass, Sister Dolores Zemont gave a brief summary of Sister Marie's life. She then mentioned that the bouquet of yellow flowers located at the foot of the altar were from Cardinal Gibbons High School and the 10 yellow roses at the podium were from the Congregation. Each of these roses represented a decade of her life. Fr. John Regan and Fr. Jim Lennon were the celebrants at Mass. In his homily, Fr. Jim said that Sister Marie had been the heart of Cardinal Gibbons High School in Florida. She had given over 50 years of dedicated service and had made a significant impact on all the students and staff there. They will continue to hold her in high esteem.

Afterwards a delicious dinner of ribs, Sister Marie's favorite, was served in the Angels Café and time was spent sharing stories about her life. Towards the end of the event, Sister Marie got up and thanked everyone for coming and said that she knew she didn't have another 100 years to live, but she was going to live each day to the fullest.



Sister Marie Schramko and friends from Florida



Our three centenarians: Sister Mariarthur Hamann, Sister Marie Schramko and Sister Mary Franz.