



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

Sister Mary Berendt was born in Columbus, Ohio, on the feast of Saint Charles Borromeo, November 4, 1938, to Marguerite (Marioth) and Anthony Berendt. Mary had two brothers and three sisters, and like them, she attended Saint Mary School where the Sisters of Saint Francis were the teachers from 1875. A high school was built in 1914 and Mary's class graduated from there in 1956, the year the school played in the State of Ohio basketball championship game. It was there that Mary grew to know and love our Sisters, and in January of 1957 she came to 520 Plainfield Road, Joliet, Illinois, to join the Congregation. At the reception of the habit in August of 1957, Mary received the name Sister Mary Assumpta, fitting because her home parish traditionally celebrated August 15 as its patronal feast.

After teaching in Illinois for 14 years, Mary was assigned to Corpus Christi School in Columbus, the city where she spent the next forty years. Mary's life was guided by the words of Micah the prophet: "What does the Lord ask of you? Only this, to live justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God."

On the outside, Mary was a tease, but inside, at her core, she was a loyal person who would fiercely defend the position of others even to the point of being criticized for doing so. Mary's loyalty kept her at Corpus Christi School through its new identity as Corpus Christi-Saint Ladislav School and, at its closure, she went to Saint Philip the Apostle School until its merger with another school. The diverse ethnicities of each student body enriched Mary's life as she did theirs. When Mary chose to leave full-time classroom duties, she was not finished in education. She then became a tutor at both Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, serving two schools 21 miles apart. The messages received at Sister Mary's death reflect the love and gratitude of her students and the parish staffs of each of these churches. Her loyalty is echoed in the respect of those whom she served.

Mary's life was enriched by the life of the Church. Her

Alleluia!



Sister Mary Berendt, OSF

family members followed different paths of marriage, priesthood and sisterhood, and all were supported by the bonds of family. Similarly, Mary loved and supported others. Her years at Our Lady of Angels opened new doors to brighten others' days. She offered her gifts on the spirituality committee, in the fun of cook-outs, and she organized football pools, and in the ways she listened to others and "walked in their shoes" even while on her scooter. Mary loved tenderly.

Finally, Mary walked humbly with her God. She knew when she left Ohio that she was not well. Physically, she had many strikes against her. Nevertheless, she took each day of the five years God gave her as a gift to do what she could to improve the lives of others. The staff of Our Lady of Angels, her nieces and nephews, the staff at the center where she received dialysis, her classmates, both the Sisters and her fellow alumni of Saint Mary's, those who had no voice, knew where she was and where she stood.

When it was hard for Mary to swallow and Sister Pat Mitchell offered her the Eucharist, which was to be her viaticum, Mary responded, "Oh, yes." May we all be as ready as Mary was to receive the Lord Jesus. Alleluia.

Sister Mary Berendt, OSF

November 4, 1938— June 11, 2020

<i>Born:</i>	November 4, 1938
<i>Parents:</i>	Anthony J. Berendt and Marguerite C. Marioth
<i>Postulancy:</i>	January 28, 1957
<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>	June 11, 2020

Ministry History

1959—1960	Student: College of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois
1960—1963	Teacher: Grades 3 and 5, St. Paul the Apostle, Joliet
1963—1965	Teacher: Grades 6 and 7, St. Boniface, Chicago, Illinois
1965—1966	Teacher: Grade 7, St. Jude, Cleveland, Ohio
1966—1973	Teacher: Grade 7, St. Joseph, Elgin, Illinois
1973—1974	Teacher: Grade 8, St. Rita Cascia, Aurora, Illinois
1974—1983	Teacher: Grade 8, Corpus Christi, Columbus, Ohio
1983—1992	Teacher: Corpus Christi, Columbus, Ohio
1992—1993	Teacher: Corpus Christi/St. Ladislav, Columbus, Ohio
1993—2004	Teacher: Corpus Christi/St. Philip the Apostle, Columbus, Ohio
2004—2005	In Transition
2005—2006	Substitute Teacher: Holy Spirit School, Diocese of Columbus, Ohio
2006—2015	Tutor: Holy Spirit/Our Lady of Perpetual Help Schools, Columbus, Ohio
2015—2020	Ministry of Prayer and Presence, Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home, Joliet, Illinois

<i>Burial:</i>	Tuesday, June 23, 2020, no procession. Committal Service at Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, Illinois.
<i>Interment:</i>	Section 343, Grave 9
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents: Anthony J. Berendt and Marguerite C. Marioth, her brothers: Joseph Berendt, Rev. James Berendt; her sisters, Katie Oestreicher, Rita Miller, and Dorothy Campbell
<i>Survived by:</i>	Numerous nieces and nephews

Rest in Peace, Sister Mary!