

Sister Mary Colette Baribeau, OSM

1899–1977

Georgiana Baribeau was born on May 28, 1899, in Rhineland, Wis., to Thelesphore and Amanda (La Treniere) Baribeau. She was baptized at St. Mary's Church in Rhineland on June 4. Her parents were born in Canada. Her father worked in the lumber business until 1903, and then went into farming near Tony, Wis..

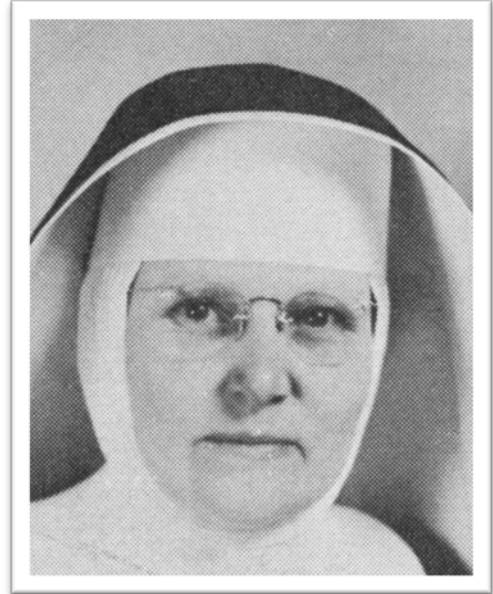
Georgiana had five brothers, Ray, Art, George, Charles, and Joseph, and six sisters, Gladys, Laura, Omaha Servite Sister Mary Francesca, Rose, Mary, and Evelina. Her sister Laura was the mother of Ladysmith Servite Sister Leone Koehler.

Georgiana transferred to St. Mary's Catholic School in Ladysmith in 1912 and was taught by the Servite Sisters, who arrived in Ladysmith that same year.

After graduating from high school, Georgiana decided to become a teacher. She graduated from Rusk County Normal School and taught in rural public schools. Her monthly check helped to support her parents and their large family. She was principal of the elementary school in Tony, Wis., for several years.

She entered the congregation in 1937, but when her mother had a stroke Georgiana went home to care for her. She returned to the convent on March 6, 1939. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1939, at the age of 40, and received the name Sister Mary Colette. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1940, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1946.

After her first profession, she taught in schools staffed by the Servite Sisters in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.



Sister Mary Colette retired at the motherhouse in Ladysmith and spent her last five years there. She died on March 2, 1977, at the age of 77.

Father John O'Malley, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on March 5, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Therese Barnum, OSM

1896–1982

Mary Helen Barnum was born on Dec. 7, 1896, in Barnum, Wis., a town in the Kickapoo Valley named after her grandfather. Her parents were Marion and Penta (Hoskins) Barnum. She had three brothers, LaVern, Edward, and Francis, and five sisters, Bessie, Esther, Hazel, Wilma, and Mildred.

Her sister Bessie called her Goldie because she had golden hair. On her nineteenth birthday, she became a Catholic and was baptized Goldie Mary Helen in St. Patrick's Church, Seneca, Wis.

While substitute teaching at St. Mary's School in Ladysmith, Goldie became interested in the Servite Sisters. With the encouragement of Sister Mary Rose Smith, Goldie entered the community on Jan. 10, 1921. She was the sixteenth member of the fledgling congregation.

She became a novice on July 16, 1921, and received the name Sister Mary Therese. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1922, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1925.

Her teaching career spanned 53 years. She taught at the elementary, secondary, and undergraduate level, ministering in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. She loved her students and she loved teaching, especially English.

Sister Mary Therese was a very warm and sociable person. She loved to be with people and kept in touch with many through letter writing.

Sister Mary Therese had a serious side, particularly when it came to her religious life. In her little spiritual notebook she wrote, "Teach religion with kindness, not fear, and the fruits of your teaching will go on for years."

When her teaching years were over, she helped in the kitchen at St. Rose of Lima Convent in Roseville, Minn. She was a good cook and a great donut maker.



Sister Mary Therese retired to the motherhouse in Ladysmith. After a short illness, she died on April 25, 1982, at Rusk County Memorial Hospital. She was 85.

Father Charles Shekelton, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on April 28, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

**Sister Mary Florence Bauernfeind,
OSM
1917–1966**

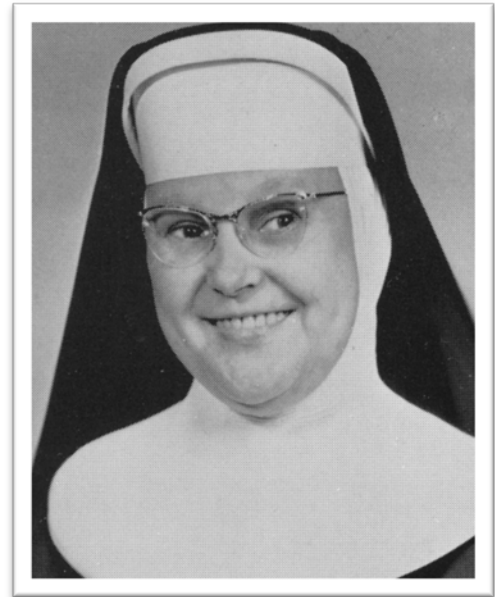
Thea Barbara Bauernfeind was born in Medford, Wis., on Dec. 10, 1917, and was baptized at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Medford on Dec. 16. Her parents, John and Theresia (Eichinger) Bauernfeind, were born in Germany. She had three sisters, Clair, Erica, and Dorothy, and four brothers, John, Alvin, Leon, and Alex.

Thea entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 13, 1936. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1937, and received the name Sister Mary Florence. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1938, and her final profession on Aug. 17, 1944.

She remained at the motherhouse until 1945 and then went to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. Ten years later she began teaching at Annunciata School in Chicago, Ill. After two years there, she went to St. Joseph's School in Carteret, N.J., where she remained until 1960. She also worked at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith for two years.

Her father was a tailor by profession, and Sister Mary Florence was an excellent seamstress. She did sewing for the sisters, and she taught sewing at Servite High School in 1962–63.

In the last years before she died, religious communities underwent great changes in their lifestyle and ministry. The sisters began wearing first a modified habit and then lay clothes. Sister Mary Florence designed the first change of habit for the novices. Then she traveled around the country to help the professed sisters make their new modified habits.



When diagnosed with multiple myeloma, Sister Mary Florence went to St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield, and later to St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith. She died on the feast of Our Lady's Assumption, Aug. 15, 1966, at the age of 48 at St. Mary's Hospital. Her funeral was on Aug. 18 in the motherhouse chapel, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Benigna Beggan, OSM 1902–1995

Margaret Beggan was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, on Feb. 8, 1902, to Joseph and Catherine Beggan. She was baptized and confirmed on March 7, 1909, at the age of seven.

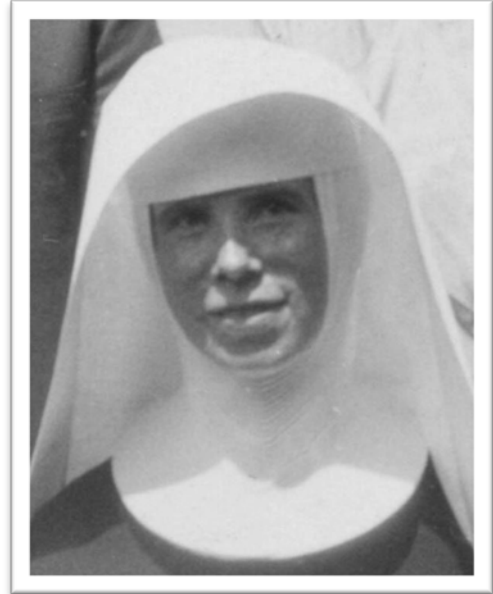
Margaret came to the United States in 1926. She entered the Servants of Mary on Nov. 26, 1930. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1931, and received the name Sister Mary Benigna. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1932, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1936.

Sister Mary Benigna worked as a nurse's aide at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith until the late 1930s. At that time she began to be troubled with medical problems. By 1942 she was diagnosed with a serious mental disorder. She went for treatment first to St. Joseph's Hospital in Saint Paul, Minn., and then to St. Joseph's Sanitarium in Dubuque, Iowa.

In July 1945, Sister Mary Benigna was released from the sanitarium into the care of her brother Joseph, who took her to his home in California. The Bishop of Superior granted her a year of excommunication to see if that would help her.

When she became elderly and ill, she went to Patton State Hospital in Los Angeles. When that facility closed in 1978, she was transferred to the Torrance Care Center in Torrance, Calif., where she resided until her death.

Toward the end of Sister Mary Benigna's life, Sister Antoinette of the Little Company of Mary assumed responsibility for her care. On Oct. 9, 1994, Sister Antoinette called to inform the congregation of Sister's deteriorating condition. She died nine months later, on July 20, 1995. She was 93.



In keeping with her wishes, her body was returned to Ladysmith for interment. Father Damian Charboneau, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on July 24, with burial in the convent cemetery. ■

Sister Mary Jerome Benedix, OSM 1909–1982

Magdaline Dorothy Benedix was born on Aug. 26, 1909, in Chicago, Ill. Her parents, Paul and Florence (Reif) Benedix, were members of the Lutheran Church.

Because of her mother's early death, Magdaline was raised by her grandmother. She attended Providence High School for girls on the west side of Chicago. The school was located within the boundaries of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, which was staffed by the Servite Fathers.

Magdaline longed to be a Catholic, but her parents opposed her desire. Nevertheless, one day she asked her classmate Agnes Joyce (the future Sister Mary Vincent, OSM) where she might go to learn more about the Catholic Church. Agnes recommended her to Father Jerome Mulherin, OSM.

Magdaline took instructions and was baptized on May 18, 1924, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Chicago. Four years later, on Dec. 8, 1928, she entered the Servite congregation in Ladysmith. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1929, and received the name Sister Mary Jerome, a name she requested because of her high regard for Father Mulherin. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1930, and her final profession on Aug. 17, 1933.

Over the years Sister Mary Jerome shared her many artistic and creative talents as a teacher, musician, printer, artist, dress designer, and singer. She worked in the print shop making beautiful hymnals for the use of the sisters in community prayer.

Sister Mary Jerome served for a time as administrator of Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., and was also a member of the Servants of Mary Council.

For many years, Sister Mary Jerome suffered from poor health. She began her struggle with tuberculosis and its crippling effects in 1936. She



spent eight years in a sanatorium and underwent several surgeries, followed by years of recuperation. Despite her poor health, she continued to be active throughout her life.

Sister Mary Jerome spoke often of death. On Nov. 9, 1982, she announced to Sister Mary Cyril Tirkpak, OSM, "This is the day." It was the feast of the Dedication of the Church of St. John Lateran, and the opening hymn began: "With joyful hearts we enter the holy place of God." She died that day at the age of 73.

Father Charles Shekleton, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Nov. 12, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Alphonse Bradley, OSM 1880–1950

Elizabeth Bradley, founder and first Prioress General of the Servants of Mary of Ladysmith, was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, on Aug. 2, 1880, to William and Ellen Catherine (Ward) Bradley and baptized at St. Joseph Parish Church in Cranagh, Civil Parish of Badoney Upper, Diocese of Derry, on Sept. 5, 1880. She grew up on her parents' farm and was educated in the national schools of Ireland.

Elizabeth entered the convent of the Poor Sisters of Nazareth in Ireland but left while still a postulant because the life was too rigorous for her health. On May 21, 1901, she boarded a ship for the United States and arrived in Boston on June 1.

Within a week of her arrival, Elizabeth contacted the Sisters of St. Joseph of La Grange, Ill., after reading about the community in the "Young Catholic Messenger." She entered the La Grange congregation on July 10, 1901. She was invested with the habit on Aug. 15, 1901, and received the name Sister Mary St. Alphonse. She made her final vows on Jan. 6, 1909. Her appointed duties at La Grange included supervising the book store at Nazareth Academy.

In 1912, Sister Mary Alphonse and several other sisters from La Grange accepted the invitation of the Servite Fathers to go to Ladysmith to staff the new parish school and to establish an American foundation of Servite Sisters. The sisters arrived in Ladysmith on the morning of Sept. 19, 1912. A week later, Bishop Schinner appointed Sister Mary Alphonse superior of the group.

From 1913 to 1919, two Servite Sisters from Pistoia, Italy, directed the new congregation. The Pistoia Sisters returned to Italy in August 1919, leaving Sister Mary Alphonse in charge as acting superior. On Dec. 4 of that year, Bishop Joseph M. Koudelka approved the community as a diocesan congregation and appointed Sister Mary Alphonse



the first Prioress General, a position she held until her death in 1950.

During her lifetime, Mother Mary Alphonse saw the congregation grow from the original six to over 130 members. She also oversaw the construction of St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith and the development of Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., as a convalescent home for women.

Mother Mary Alphonse died on June 4, 1950, following gallbladder surgery. She was 69. The funeral Mass was celebrated in the motherhouse chapel on June 7, with burial in the convent cemetery. Father Philip Kuczek, OSM, presided at the liturgy, and Bishop Albert Gregory Meyer of Superior delivered the homily. ■

Sister Mary Anthony Bresadola, OSM **1912–1997**

Mary Judith Bresadola, who was named after her two grandmothers, was born in Gile, Wis., on May 7, 1912, to Cornelius and Erma (Toffenetti) Bresadola. She had two brothers, Thomas and Angelo, and two sisters, Eugenia (Sister Mary Monica, OSM) and Irene.

In 1925, when she was only 13 years old, Mary went to Ladysmith to ask to enter the Servite community. She was accepted, and she entered on Sept. 14 of that year. The congregation was itself just 13 years old when she entered, and she was the twenty-fifth member. She became a novice on Aug. 14, 1927, and received the name Sister Mary Anthony. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1928, and her final profession on Aug. 17, 1933.

Sister Mary Anthony was a talented musician. She gave music lessons on both piano and organ in parish schools and taught music in the classrooms. She ministered in parishes in Minnesota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. She spent her summers training the young sisters in voice, piano and organ, and Gregorian chant.

Sister Mary Anthony was a good cook and especially loved to make donuts. In her later years, she was happy to serve as housekeeper at several of the congregation's missions.

She had a deep love of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her joy was to show her students the May altars in each classroom, with the hope that this would increase their love for Our Lady, as well.

Sister Mary Anthony spent her last years at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where her sister, Sister Mary Monica, also lived. Every evening Sister Mary Monica would visit Sister Mary Anthony, and they would spend time together. Sister Mary Anthony had a keyboard and often played it for her sister. They both looked forward to this time together.



Sister Mary Anthony died at the Villa on April 30, 1997, a week before her 85th birthday. Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on May 3. Father David Oberts presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the mother-house chapel on May 5, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Monica Bresadola, OSM

1913–2005

Eugenia Carolina Bresadola was born on Nov. 6, 1913, in Gile, Wis., to Cornelius and Erma (Toffenetti) Bresadola. She had two brothers, Thomas and Angelo, and two sisters, Mary Judith (Sister Mary Anthony, OSM), and Irene.

Eugenia, whose family called her Jenny, entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 15, 1927, following in the footsteps of her older sister Mary Judith, who entered in 1925. Eugenia became a novice on Aug. 15, 1930, and received the name Sister Mary Monica. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1931, and her final profession on Feb. 12, 1935.

Sister Mary Monica worked in domestic services all her life. In 1932, she was assigned to the kitchen at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith, where she prepared trays for patients. She later took classes in cooking and dietary food preparation and became certified in the field.

She served as a housekeeper to the teaching sisters in Weyerhaeuser and Thorp, Wis., and to the chaplain at the motherhouse in Ladysmith. For a time, she was also in charge of the kitchen at St. Mary's Hospital in Kewaunee, Wis.

Sister Mary Monica spent most of her years of active ministry at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. She moved there in 1944 to work in the kitchen and dining room, and later assisted in the laundry and in housekeeping. Except for a few years away from the Villa on other assignments, she worked at the Villa until her retirement in 1991, for a total of 43 years.

When she retired, she became active in volunteer services at the Villa. One of her favorite tasks was to transport residents by wheelchair for their appointments at the Villa beauty parlor. She also led the daily rosary for residents.



Sister Mary Monica's simplicity of life and optimistic outlook were evidenced in her funeral plans, where she wrote: "I would like to wear my habit" though "not necessarily my best one. If we have younger sisters joining us, someone will be wearing the habit. This person could have it."

On March 7, 2005, Sister Mary Monica was admitted to the hospital for tests. She was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, which had spread to her abdomen. She died at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, Ill., on March 18, 2005. She was 91.

Father Eugene Voucher presided at a memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on March 22. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on March 23, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Annunciata Burns, OSM 1907–1988

Mary Catherine Burns was born on the feast of Mary's Assumption, Aug. 15, 1907, in Benwood, W.Va. Her parents were James and Mary (Blanche) Shea Burns. She was baptized at St. John's Church in Benwood. She had three sisters, Ann, Elizabeth, and Lucy.

Mary Catherine became acquainted with the Servite Sisters at St. Paul's School in Weirton, W.Va. In the spring of 1934, she accompanied the sisters from Weirton to the motherhouse in Ladysmith. She entered the congregation on June 16 along with another West Virginia native, Elizabeth Mahoney (Sister Mary Bridget, OSM).

Mary Catherine became a novice on Jan. 1, 1935, and received the name Sister Mary Annunciata. She made her first profession of vows on Jan. 2, 1936, and her final profession on Jan. 1, 1939.

She became a dedicated teacher with a good sense of humor. She taught for over 30 years in parochial schools in Illinois, Minnesota, and New Jersey.

She earned a master's in library science from Spalding College in Louisville, Ky., and set up the libraries at St. Rose of Lima School in Roseville, Minn. and St. Jerome School, in Maplewood, Minn. She served as librarian at Mount Senario College in Ladysmith for four years and at the motherhouse for ten. An avid reader herself, she helped the sisters by guiding them to new books on spiritual life in the convent library.

Sister Mary Annunciata was a great story teller, one of the congregation's all-time myth makers. "The most fitting tribute to her memory," said Sister Sandra DeGidio, OSM, "would be for us to keep her stories, our myths, alive by sharing them."



When Servite Friar Marty Jenco was held hostage in Lebanon for eighteen months, Sister Mary Annunciata prayed for him and his release each day at community prayer and at Mass.

Sister Mary Annunciata died on Dec. 22, 1988, at Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home in Ladysmith. She was 81. Father Brian DuBois presided at her funeral Mass in the motherhouse chapel on Dec. 24, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Rita Byers, OSM

1900–1992

Wilma Theresa Byers was born in Boscobel, Wis., on June 12, 1900, to Andrew and Ellen (Shields) Byers, the third of five children. She had three brothers, William, Robert, and Fred, and one sister, Izetta. She was baptized Theresa Wilhelmina on Nov. 4, 1900, at St. Philip Church in Soldier's Grove, Wis.

Wilma entered the Servants of Mary at the age of 30 on April 4, 1931. She became a novice on Nov. 20, 1931, and received the name Sister Mary Rita. She made her first profession of vows on Sept. 25, 1932, and her final profession three years later on Sept. 25, 1935.

Sister Mary Rita taught at Our Lady of Sorrows School in Ladysmith, St. Bernard's School in Thorp, Wis., and other Catholic schools in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, and West Virginia. She also spent several weeks each summer catechizing in parishes where there were no Catholic schools.

Sister Mary Rita worked as an aide at St. Joseph on the Flambeau Nursing Home in Ladysmith for several years, and also served as librarian at Mount Senario College.

She loved animals and had a particular fondness for birds. She had a number of pet parakeets.

She had several strokes in her last years. In 1982, she moved to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. While at the Villa she was very frail and seldom spoke. She had a great devotion to Our Lady and continued to pray the rosary throughout her final years, in weakness and suffering.

Sister Mary Frances Wanbaugh, OSM, visited her while giving a retreat to the elderly sisters at the Villa. One day she asked Sister Mary Rita to pray with her. With a strong voice, Sister Mary Rita recited every word of the Our Father and Hail Mary in unison with Sister Mary Frances.



Sister Mary Rita died at Ad-dolorata Villa on March 8, 1992. She was 91.

Father Bernard Barnes, OSM, presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on March 11. Father Edward Mumper presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the mother-house chapel on March 14, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Angela Caccamo, OSM 1912–1999

Mary Caccamo was born in Italy on April 14, 1912. Her adoptive parents Bruno and Domenica Caccamo were the parents of five boys, Bruno, Emilio, Joseph, Simon, and Vincent, and two other girls, Angeline and Carmela. As a small child growing up in Italy, Mary already knew that some day she would dedicate her life to serving the Church. Her family moved to Chicago when she was 12 years old.

Mary entered the Servants of Mary in Blue Island, Ill., on Sept. 15, 1935. She received the name Sister Mary Angela when she became a novice. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 23, 1938. In 1971, she transferred to the Ladysmith Servants of Mary and made a reaffirmation of vows on Sept. 15, 1973.

Sister Mary Angela earned a bachelor's degree in English and a master's in educational administration from Loyola University in Chicago. She was a teacher by profession, and her teaching career spanned more than 35 years. She taught at St. Donatus School in Blue Island and served as principal of many parochial schools in the Chicago area and at Our Lady of Sorrows School in Ladysmith.

During the 1980s, Sister Mary Angela was director of religious education at St. Procopius Parish in Chicago. She spoke fluent English and Italian, and in her 70s she took up Spanish in order to minister to the Hispanic community at St. Procopius.

She was a vibrant and intelligent woman, whose life was enriched by her travels to Mexico, Italy, Israel, Greece, and Jordan. Her interests included art, music, drama, reading, philosophy, theology, and politics.

In 1991, she retired to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where she kept active with volunteer service. She worked with the pastoral staff,



taught religion, and wrote regularly for the Villa's weekly bulletin. She enriched the sisters' lives by sharing her great appreciation and knowledge of the Servite Order.

Sister Mary Angela developed lymphoma about a year before her death. She received hospice care in her final weeks. She died in the convent at Addolorata Villa on Dec. 13, 1999, at the age of 87.

Her lifelong friend Father Damian Charboneau, OSM, presided at a memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on Dec. 16. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Dec. 18, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Beatrice Mary Castillo, OSM

1905–1984

Beatrice Mary Castillo was born on Nov. 21, 1905, in Belen, New Mexico, to Lotario and Marie (Chavez) Castillo. She was baptized Nov. 26, 1905, at the church of Our Lady of Belen. She had four brothers, Max, Desiderio, Richard, and Arthur, and four sisters, Macedania, Rosalia, Elaisa, and Barbarita.

Beatrice Mary was small in stature and lively in spirit. Her father called her Bella (“Beautiful”). Her mother died when she was very young, and so she was raised by her older sister Barbarita.

Beatrice Mary entered the Ladysmith Servants of Mary on Oct. 8, 1928, along with another Belen native, Philomena Castillo (Sister Mary Dorothy, OSM). The Servite Friars who ministered in Belen were influential in directing them to the Ladysmith congregation.

Beatrice Mary became a novice on Aug. 15, 1929, and received the name Sister Mary Hugh (she later returned to her baptismal name).

Sister Beatrice Mary made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1930. Her whole village rejoiced when she became a sister. When she returned to Belen for a visit eight years after entering the congregation, she was greeted with a caravan of cars sounding their horns. The villagers gathered to greet the “little sister.” An old blind woman exclaimed: “Praised be God. Beatrice has arrived!”

Over the years, Sister Beatrice Mary worked as a nurse’s aide, assisted with dietary services in the hospital, did convent housekeeping, and taught religious education. She served in Illinois, New Jersey, and Wisconsin.

For eleven years, Sister Beatrice Mary also ministered in the area of New Mexico where she grew up. While living with and caring for her sister Barbarita Garcia, she worked among the Hispanics as a teacher’s aide and religion teacher and



gave loving and compassionate care to the mentally handicapped in Los Lunas Training School in New Mexico.

In 1984, Sister Beatrice Mary retired to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. On Aug. 6, she accompanied a Villa resident and her son to the Wisconsin State Fair in Milwaukee. That afternoon she had a heart attack and was taken to West Allis Memorial Hospital. Sister Marguerite Samz, OSM, and Sister Mary Bernice VanderLoop, OSM, went to the hospital to be with her. She died on Aug. 28, 1984, at West Allis Memorial Hospital. She was 78.

Father Hugh Briody presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Aug. 31, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Dorothy Castillo, OSM 1902–1989

Philomena Castillo was born in Belen, New Mexico, on Nov. 7, 1902, and was baptized at the Church of Our Lady of Belen. Her parents were Joseph Anthony and Mary Catherine (Garcia) Castillo. Philomena had six brothers, Frank, David, Joseph, Julian, William, and Michael, and three sisters, Elizabeth, Julia, and Sister Mary Cosmas. Her sister Julia died as an infant.

Philomena entered the Ladysmith Servants of Mary on Oct. 28, 1928, together with another young woman from Belen, Beatrice Mary Castillo. Philomena became a novice on Aug. 15, 1929, and received the name Sister Mary Dorothy. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1930, and her final profession on Aug. 17, 1933.

Sister Mary Dorothy was very short in stature. One evening soon after she entered the congregation, she was in chapel with the community for vespers. At the end of the service, the sisters all rose to sing the “Salve Regina.” The sister next to Sister Mary Dorothy turned to tell her that she should stand...and then realized that she *was* standing.

Sister Mary Dorothy ministered as a housekeeper, cook, and receptionist. She served in Almena, Kewaunee, Ladysmith, Menomonee Falls, Washburn, and Weyerhaeuser, Wis. She also ministered in Carteret, N.J., where she visited the elderly Spanish-speaking people of St. Joseph’s Parish.

In 1956, Sister Mary Dorothy served as housekeeper for the sisters at St. James School in Menomonee Falls, Wis. While there, she visited the migrant Mexican families who came to the area in the summer to do the harvesting.



Sister Mary Dorothy retired in 1982 and spent her last years at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where she was happy to be of service mending the residents’ clothes. She lived to celebrate her diamond jubilee in the congregation in 1988.

On Jan. 27, 1989, Sister Mary Dorothy had a heart attack and died at Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines, Ill. She was 86.

Father David Oberts presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 30, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Imelda Chevrier, OSM

1912–1944

Christina Lucy Chevrier was born on Nov. 13, 1912, in Glenwood City, Wis., to William and Hedwig (Ruff) Chevrier. She was baptized on Nov. 17, 1912, in the parish church in Bloomer, Wis. She had two sisters, Amelia and one known only as Mrs. Lloyd Legellier, and three brothers, Robert, Bernard, and Leo.

Christina entered the Ladysmith Servants of Mary on her twenty-first birthday, Nov. 13, 1933. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1934, and received the name Sister Mary Imelda. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1935, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1938.

In her entrance application, she wrote that she would especially like to do nursing, and she saw her wish fulfilled when she became a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith.

Sister Mary Imelda spent only eleven years as a Servant of Mary. She developed rheumatoid arthritis and was confined to a bed in the convent infirmary during the last two years of her life. Sisters who knew her recalled visiting her during her final month when they took her a tray at mealtime or brought her milk and graham crackers at bedtime.

Sister Mary Imelda died on Dec. 31, 1944. She was 32.

Father H. K. Kiel, pastor of St. John's Church in Glenwood City, Wis., presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass in the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 3, 1945, assisted by Father Paul Boschold. Servite priests who attended the funeral included Father Charles Feeny, OSM, who delivered the homily, Father Paul Dwyer, OSM, Father Philip Kuczek, OSM, and Father A. Riesenmy, OSM. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Helen Conley, OSM 1916–2010

Mary Ellen Conley was born on Feb. 10, 1916, in Soldiers Grove, Wis., to John Conley, an Irish Catholic, and Mabel (Pecor) Conley, a French Canadian and convert to Catholicism. She had four brothers, Charles, John, Michael, and Frank, and one sister, Lois.

She grew up on a dairy farm in Crawford County, where she preferred working outside and loved riding horses bareback.

She credited the parish priest, Father O'Shaughnessy, with planting the seed of her vocation. When she was 14 years old, she was in the hospital, and Father O'Shaughnessy came to visit. He asked her what she planned to do when she grew up, and she said, "I'm going to be a nurse." "No you aren't," he said. "You're going to be a sister. The next time I see you, you're going to have on the habit of a religious order." As it turned out, they were both right.

The following year, on Sept. 3, 1931, Mary Ellen entered the convent in Ladysmith. She became a novice on Aug. 16, 1932, and received the name Sister Mary Helen. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1933, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1937.

Sister Helen completed her high school education after entering the convent. She later attended St. Mary's School of Nursing, LaSalle, Ill., and became a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1955. She also took courses at St. Catherine College, St. Paul, Minn.

Following her first profession, Sister Helen worked for six years at the motherhouse and then was assigned to cook for the teaching sisters at Hillside, Ill., and Carteret, N.J. In 1942 she was sent to help out at Addolorata Villa, Wheeling, Ill. From that time on, with the exception of nine years teaching in elementary schools in St. Paul, Minn., and Weirton, W.Va., she worked in health-



care at Addolorata Villa and at St. Mary's Hospital, Ladysmith.

"I enjoyed teaching after I got started and knew what I was doing," she once said, "but I enjoyed the nursing more. I enjoy taking care of the sick."

When Sister Helen retired at Addolorata Villa in the 1980s, she took on the ministry of visiting the nursing home residents and sitting with the dying in their final hours.

She died at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, Ill., on March 20, 2010, following a brief illness. She was 94.

Father Nick Husain presided at a memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on March 23. Columban Father Jerry Wilmsen presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on March 24, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Agnes Mary Corcoran, OSM

1907–1994

Catherine Corcoran was born on July 8, 1907, to John and Marcella (Dillan) Corcoran. She was one of eight children, with four brothers, James, John, Art, and Thomas, and three sisters, Mary, Marcella, and Ellen. She grew up on the South Side of Chicago, where she attended school at Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Catherine's aunt, Sister Mary Evangelist Corcoran, OSM, was one of the founders of the Ladysmith Servite community.

Catherine entered the congregation on Aug. 3, 1925, at the age of 18. She became a novice on Aug. 16, 1926, and received the name Sister Mary Agnes (she later changed her name to Agnes Mary). She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1927, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1930.

She earned a master's degree from DePaul University in Chicago. Her ministry was teaching, and she worked for 50 years in elementary and high school education.

She taught elementary school in Carteret, N.J.; Weirton, W.Va.; Ladysmith, Wis.; Saint Paul, Minn.; and Chicago and Hillside, Ill. She also taught at the Servite Seminary in Hillside and at Servite High School in Anaheim, Calif. She served as principal of St. Domitilla School in Hillside, Annunciata School in Chicago, and St. Joseph School in Carteret.

Sister Agnes Mary's longest place of service was St. Domitilla's in Hillside, where she spent 32 years. She retired from teaching in 1977 and then tutored on a volunteer basis.

When her mother became ill, she visited her every week to help with the cooking and cleaning. Later she did the same for her sister Marcella and her brother John.



In 1991, Sister Agnes Mary moved to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. She died there on Oct. 30, 1994. She was 87.

Father Art Dillon presided at a memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on Nov. 2. Father Ellis Zimmer, OFMCap, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the mother-house chapel on Nov. 3, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Clarita Corcoran, OSM 1911–1996

Grace Corcoran was born in Gaylord, Minn., on April 9, 1911, to James and Margaret Ann (Hunt) Corcoran. She had four brothers, Ambrose, Vincent, John, and Bart, and six sisters, Mary, Margaret, Rita, Catherine, Clara, and Sister Laura, OSF.

Grace had polio as a small child. The disease left her right arm paralyzed from the shoulder to the elbow, but it never limited her performance. She later recalled that the only time she saw her father cry was when he heard that she would be paralyzed.

Grace came to Ladysmith in July 1931 looking for a job and for her vocation. She found both. She entered the congregation on Aug. 30, 1931. She became a novice on Aug. 16, 1932, and received the name Sister Mary Clarita. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1933, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1936.

Sister Mary Clarita was a dedicated lab technician. She first worked at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith, where her goodness was so appreciated that the local florist named a flower after her: "Clarita." She later worked at St. Mary Hospital in Kewaunee, Wis.

On her 60th jubilee of profession, Sister Mary Clarita said: "Each of these ministries has been very rewarding: As a medical technician, I witnessed God's marvelous work on the human body. It was interesting and precious. Watching God at work in the patients as they returned to health was surely a grace in itself, for which I am extremely grateful."

Sister Mary Clarita was a champion for peace and justice. She marched before the Pentagon in Washington, DC. When she retired, she went to live at St. Peter Claver Parish in Saint Paul, Minn., where she did home visitation among the city's poor.



The parishioners of St. Peter Claver, where she ministered from 1982 to 1991, said of her: "You have been an instrument of priceless blessings to us...more precious than gold." The parish's social committee then presented her with a gold rosary.

Sister Mary Clarita spent her final years at the convent at Ad-dolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. She died on July 29, 1996, in the hospice division of Holy Family Medical Center, Des Plaines, Ill. She was 85.

Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on Aug. 1. Father David Oberts presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Aug. 2, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Evangelist Corcoran, OSM 1875–1962

Ellen Martha Corcoran, one of the founders of the Servants of Mary of Ladysmith, was born on Feb. 26, 1875, in Fairymont, Roscommon, Ireland, and baptized on March 1. Ellen, or Nellie, as she was known by her family, was one of eight children of Patrick and Catherine (Degnan) Corcoran. Her sisters were Bridget, Elizabeth, Jane, and Hannah, and her brothers were Patrick, James, and John. She was educated at Mt. Charles and Loughlynn, the national schools of Ireland in County Sligo.

Ellen and one of her sisters entered the Sisters of Mercy at St. Patrick's in Sligo City. When her sister showed signs of epilepsy, both women were asked to leave.

In the spring of 1902, at the age of 27, Ellen set sail for America, where she joined her brother and his family in Chicago in May. Less than three months later, she entered the congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in La Grange, Ill.

When she became a novice, Ellen received the name Sister Mary St. John Evangelist. She made her final profession on Jan. 6, 1910. Her duties at La Grange included teaching commercial courses at Nazareth Academy and Latin to the novices.

On Aug. 6, 1912, Sister Mary Evangelist joined the group of sisters who accepted the Servite Fathers' invitation to go to Ladysmith to teach in the new school. The sisters arrived in Ladysmith on Sept. 19 and started teaching on Oct. 10. Sister Mary Evangelist worked out a syllabus for mathematics and taught grades seven and eight.

She was a demanding teacher, yet known for her kindness. Her very size was awe-inspiring to the students. She was agile and graceful, with a rapid step. She never lost the rich, west country brogue of her native Roscommon Hills.

In her later years, Sister Mary Evangelist compiled a short history of the early days of the com-



munity. Like the other founders, she served as a member of the Council most of her years at Ladysmith. After a short illness, she died on July 12, 1962, just a few weeks before the celebration of the golden jubilee of the congregation she helped establish. She was 87.

Father Patrick Roche, OSM, assisted by Father Joseph McCormack of Ladysmith and Father Robert Schipper of Bruce, presided at the funeral Mass in the motherhouse chapel on July 16, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Bonfilia Cote, OSM 1895–1979

Marie Laura Cote was born on Sept. 2, 1895, in South Lawrence, Massachusetts, to Henry and Adel (Gilette) Cote. She had two brothers, Fred and Leo, and one sister, Delia.

Prior to entering the convent, Marie spent many years caring for her aged parents. She entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 10, 1931, at the age of 36. She became a novice on Aug. 16, 1932, and received the name Sister Mary Bonfilia. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1933, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1936.

Sister Mary Bonfilia was a nurse's aide at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith until 1960, and then at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where she cared for the elderly until her health failed.

The one word that best describes her is *gentle*. She was also generous, patient, kind, and completely dedicated to her patients. She believed people were basically good, and she approached them that way. They responded to her in kind.

In her early years of convent life, Sister Mary Bonfilia assisted in the sacristy at St. Mary's Hospital, and then later at Addolorata Villa. She often could be found in the chapel, and she would direct the relatives to the chapel after a patient died. She was attentive to the spiritual well-being of the patients in her care, and she contacted their ministers as needed. She often prayed with her patients at their bedside.

Sister Mary Bonfilia loved children, and she had a great sense of humor. While in Ladysmith, she helped with the training of the young aspirants every Saturday. She also helped in the convent sewing room.



During her final years, she lived with the sisters at Addolorata Villa. She died of a heart ailment on Feb. 24, 1979, at Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines, Ill. She was 83.

Father J. Kelly, SJ, presided at a funeral liturgy at Addolorata Villa on Feb. 26. Father John P. O'Malley, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Feb. 27, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Camillus Cote, OSM 1911–2011

Marie Lauretta Cote was born on Nov. 17, 1911, in Beaverville, Ill., to Odella and Gertrude (Skelly) Cote. She was the fifth of seven children. She had three sisters, Rosella, Velma, and Dorine, and two brothers, Wilfred and Leonard.

On the family farm in Beaverville, she helped her mother can vegetables and churned the butter that the family sold for extra income. She attended grade school and two years of high school in Beaverville and then spent three years in nurse's training at St. Anthony Hospital in Chicago.

In Chicago she became acquainted with the Servite Friars at Our Lady of Sorrows. She told them she was interested in being a sister, and they passed the word along to Mother Mary Alphonse Bradley. One day while Marie Lauretta was helping her family with haying, she looked up to see Mother Alphonse and Sister Hyacinth making their way across the field to meet her. Before they left, they had measured her for a postulant uniform and set an entrance date.

She arrived in Ladysmith by Soo Line on Nov. 1, 1933, dressed in her black uniform, which allowed her to travel clergy rate. As soon as she arrived, she was put to work at St. Mary's Hospital, which was coping with an outbreak of meningitis at the nearby CCC camp. She completed her last two years of high school at St. Mary's in Ladysmith.

Marie Lauretta became a novice on Aug. 15, 1934, and received the name Sister Mary Camillus. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1935, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1938.

She ministered as a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith until 1950, and then taught at schools staffed by the Servants of Mary in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. She



worked in nursing homes in St. Paul, Minn., for a couple years. Later, while living at St. Rose of Lima Convent in Roseville, Minn., she cooked the evening meal for the parish priests.

At St. Rose's she had a cat named Kitty Cat Cote, who was royally spoiled. If Sister Mary Camillus had chicken for dinner, so did Kitty Cat.

In 2000 she retired to the motherhouse in Ladysmith. Two years later, following a heart attack, she moved to Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home, where she resided until her death on May 9, 2011. She was 99.

Father Shaji Pazhukkathara presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Ladysmith on May 12, with burial in the convent cemetery. ■

Sister Mary Raphael Davis, OSM

1921–1952

Mary Loretta Davis was born on May 9, 1921, in Chicago, Ill., to John and Mary (McGarland) Davis. She was baptized on June 12, 1921, at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Chicago. She had three brothers, Raymond, Robert, and Russell, and two sisters, Rita and Rose.

Mary entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 14, 1944, at age 23. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1945, and received the name Sister Mary Raphael. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1946.

Sister Mary Raphael taught at St. Mary's School in Ladysmith in 1946. The following year, she went to St. Joseph Parish in Carteret, N.J., to teach in the parish school.

In 1950, she was diagnosed with cancer. In the spring she had major surgery at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Elizabeth, N.J. She remained hospitalized for many weeks, and each day the sisters went to visit her. A man from the parish drove the sisters to the hospital, where his wife was also a cancer patient. He visited his wife while the sisters spent time with Sister Mary Raphael.

After a time of partial recovery, Sister Mary Raphael returned to the classroom, although she was in great pain. Some months before her death, she returned to the motherhouse in Ladysmith. Near the end of her life, her family traveled from Chicago every weekend to visit her. She died on May 12, 1952, at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith. She was 31.

Father Gregory O'Brien, OSM, presided at the funeral Mass in the motherhouse chapel on May 17, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Florence Dowd, OSM

1910–2002

Florence Catherine Dowd was born to John and Frances (Giese) Dowd on Aug. 20, 1910, in Stanton, Wis. She was baptized on Aug. 28, 1910, at St. Bridget Church in Stanton. She had one brother, Edward, who was born four years later. Her mother died shortly after giving birth to this son. Her father, a farmer, cared for his two young children as best he could. In 1917 he married Flora Lehman, who became a caring stepmother to the children.

Florence became acquainted with Servites through the priests who served in her home parish in Stanton. Later when she met the Ladysmith Servite Sisters, she found them to be compassionate, warm, and fun-loving and was drawn to their way of life.

She entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 5, 1932. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1933, and received the name Sister Mary Bonaventure (she later returned to her baptismal name). She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1934, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1937.

Sister Mary Florence attended St. Scholastica College, College of Steubenville, University of Minnesota, College of St. Catherine, and Mount Senario College.

She ministered as a nurse's aide at the hospitals in Ladysmith and Kewaunee, Wis., and at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. She taught in parochial schools in Saint Paul, Minn.; Weirton, W.Va.; and Ladysmith, Wis. She served as housekeeper in Carteret, N.J.; Ladysmith, Wis.; Weirton, W.Va.; Thorp, Wis.; and Saint Paul, Minn. She also cooked, gardened, and taught summer classes in religious education.

In 1983, she retired and went to live at the motherhouse in Ladysmith. She remained active helping with household tasks, providing hospitality to visitors, and spending time in supportive



prayer. She is remembered for her joy, sense of humor, and warm smile. She was a woman of care and compassion, always working quietly behind the scenes.

A few months prior to her death, Sister Mary Florence entered the Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home. She contracted pneumonia and died at Rusk County Memorial Hospital on Jan. 20, 2002. She was 91.

Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 24, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Celine Draus, OSM

1935–2002

Eleanor Florence Draus was born at home in Weyerhaeuser, Wis., on Oct. 21, 1935, to Joseph and Sophia (Kolek) Draus. She was baptized at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Weyerhaeuser on Nov. 24, 1935. Her parents were dairy farmers. She had three brothers, Chester, Harry, and Theodore, and two sisters, Rose and Julia.

She grew up in a Polish farming community of hard-working, industrious people of strong faith. She first attended a one-room, rural school. When it closed, she went to SS. Peter and Paul School in Weyerhaeuser, where she was taught by Servite sisters. She was especially impressed with the kindness of Sister Mary Fidelis Samz, OSM, her teacher in grades 5–8. She also fondly remembered Sister Mary Catherine Izral, OSM, who once wrapped young Eleanor in her mantle to keep her warm.

As a high school junior, Eleanor entered the Servants of Mary aspirancy and attended Our Lady of Sorrows High School in Ladysmith. Following her graduation, she entered the congregation as a postulant on Aug. 23, 1952. She became a novice on June 19, 1953, and received the name Sister Mary Celine. She made her first profession of vows on June 20, 1954, and her final profession on June 19, 1960.

Sister Mary Celine earned a bachelor's degree in education at Mount Senario College, Ladysmith. She taught first grade at St. Jerome School, Maplewood, Minn.; St. Rose of Lima School, Roseville, Minn.; Holy Family School, St. Louis Park Minn.; St. Domitilla School, Hillside, Ill.; and Our Lady of Sorrows School, Ladysmith, Wis.

After 28 years of teaching, she turned her attention to religious education and pastoral ministry



and served for 10 years in parishes in Haugen and River Falls, Wis., and St. Bonifacius, Minn.

In 1994 she attended St. Paul Technical College for training as a nursing assistant. She spent her final years serving the elderly in home care with Sisters Care in Saint Paul, Minn. She also did volunteer ministry at St. Therese Parish in St. Paul.

In July 2001, she was diagnosed with liver cancer. She died on Jan. 14, 2002, at St. Mary's Home in Saint Paul, Minn., with Sister Marie Rubbelke, OSM, and Sister Mary De Lourdes Plourde, OSM, at her side. She was 66.

Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 17, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Flora Farnum, OSM

1910–1989

Ferne Susanna Farnum was born on Sept. 5, 1910, in Burnstad, N.D., to Charles and Flora (Hammond) Farnum. She was one of ten children, with five sisters, Myrtle, May, Esther, Marion, and Florence, and four brothers, Arthur, Frank, Fred, and Ray. Ferne lived on a farm and started first grade at age five in a small rural school. After graduating from high school, she attended teacher training school.

On Jan. 3, 1937, she joined the Catholic Church. In the summer of 1940, a missionary priest, Father Peter Minwegen, OMI, came to her parish in North Dakota. Ferne was eager to join a religious community, and Father Minwegen told her about the Servants of Mary in Ladysmith. He spoke highly of the Servite Sisters and, in addition to Flora, guided several other young women to the community, including Sister Martha Kormendy, OSM, and Sister Mary Zita Vogel, OSM.

Father Minwegen gave Ferne ten dollars to travel to Ladysmith for an interview with the Servants of Mary. Ferne made the trip, was accepted, and entered the convent on June 19, 1941. She became a novice a year later and received the name Sister Mary Flora. She made her first profession of vows on June 20, 1943, and her final profession on June 19, 1949.

Sister Mary Flora taught elementary school for about 40 years. Before entering the congregation, she taught for several years in a one-room school house in North Dakota, riding to and from school on horseback. As a Servite sister, she taught in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and New Jersey. Her last nine years of teaching were at Our Lady of Sorrows School in Ladysmith.

She later spent eight years ministering in home care for the elderly. She was the first member of the congregation to serve full-time in home care. She also enjoyed sewing.



Sister Mary Flora brought joy to others through her gift of wonder and the simple enjoyment of life.

She retired after heart surgery in January 1983 and returned to the motherhouse in Ladysmith, where she spent her final years. She died on Jan. 12, 1989, at the motherhouse, following several months of illness with cancer. She was 78.

Father Brian DuBois presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 16, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary DeSales Fitzpatrick, OSM 1908–1997

Ann Teresa Fitzpatrick was born in Keenogue, Inniskeen, County Monaghan, Ireland, on Aug. 7, 1908, to George and Annie (Murphy) Fitzpatrick. She had five sisters, Alice, Kathleen, Mary, Bridget, and Elizabeth, and one brother, Patrick.

When Ann began thinking of entering the convent, she wrote home to her parents in Ireland to tell them of her decision. To assuage her loneliness from being apart from her family, her father reminded her that, wherever they were, they would both be looking at the same moon.

Ann entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 14, 1930. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1931, and received the name Sister Mary DeSales. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1932, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1935.

Sister Mary DeSales received her nursing training at St. Mary's School of Nursing in Kankakee, Ill. She was an excellent nurse and did all she could to make her patients comfortable and to cheer them by the warmth of her smile. Mr. Vandy, a friend and benefactor of the sisters, called her the best nurse in the whole world. He once insisted that she come to Florida to help him recover from a broken hip.

Sister Mary DeSales ministered as a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith for 22 years. Later she worked at St. Mary's Area Memorial Hospital in Kewaunee, Wis., and at Little Company of Mary Hospital in Evergreen Park, Ill. She spent one year of private nursing with Mrs. Vandy, and one year of private nursing in Chicago. Together with Sister Mary Stanislaus, OSM, she also gave physical therapy, whirlpool treatments, and massages to residents at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill.

She retired at Addolorata Villa, where she continued her ministry of caring for others by volun-



teering in the gift shop and visiting the sick and elderly. She died on June 29, 1997, at the Villa. She was 88.

Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on July 1, assisted by Father Thomas Heskin, OSM, who delivered the homily, and Father Bernard Barnes, OSM. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the mother-house chapel on July 3, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Aloysius Formby, OSM

1904–2001

Josephine Formby was born in Formby, England, on March 24, 1904, to Henry and Agnes Formby. She had two sisters, Mary and Agnes, and one brother, John.

The family moved to Ottawa, Canada, in 1912. Josephine sailed to Canada with her mother and three siblings. They narrowly escaped being on the Titanic. Her father, who had preceded them to Canada, booked the family on that ship's maiden voyage. His wife, however, refused to travel in April with her small children and chose to make the trip later that summer instead.

Josephine was a member of a Servite parish in Ottawa and belonged to the Secular Servite Order. She learned about the Servite Sisters in Ladysmith from Father VanHolder, OSM, and entered the congregation on Jan. 9, 1926, at the age of 22.

She became a novice on Aug. 16, 1926, and received the name Sister Mary Aloysius. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1927, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1930.

Sister Mary Aloysius attended teacher training school in Ottawa before entering the congregation. She later studied at St. Scholastica College in Duluth, Minn., and did graduate work in Chicago and Washington, DC.

She ministered as an elementary school teacher and principal at St. Mary's in Ladysmith, St. Domitilla's in Hillside, Ill., St. Paul's in Weirton, W.Va., St. Rose of Lima in Roseville, Minn., St. Jerome's in Maplewood, Minn., St. Joseph's in Carteret, N.J., and Annunciata in Chicago.

Early in her career she served for a year as administrator of Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. From 1964 to 1973, she was administrator of St. Mary's Hospital and St. Joseph on the Flambeau Nursing Home in Ladysmith. She was administrator of St. Mary's Hospital in Kewaunee, Wis., for four years. She served on the Servants of Mary



Council for six years, and was also a board member of Mount Senario College in Ladysmith.

She retired in 1977 and for a time volunteered in the library at St. Rose of Lima School. In 1981, she moved to Addolorata Villa, where she volunteered as receptionist and lector and organized the annual Christmas craft and bake sale.

Sister Mary Aloysius died at Addolorata Villa on Oct. 11, 2001. She was 97. Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on Oct. 15. Father Robert McKeon presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the mother-house chapel on Oct. 16, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Thomas Gaffey, OSM 1892–1984

Margaret Mary Gaffey was born on Sept. 8, 1892, in Moville, County Donegal, Ireland, to Thomas Gaffey and Sarah (McMansee) Gaffey. She was baptized the next day at St. Michael's Parish. Her family called her Maggie. She had four brothers, Lawrence, Robert, Thomas, and Michael, and two sisters, Mary and Sarah.

Margaret immigrated to the United States in the early 1920s to find work. For a time she worked as a meat cook for wealthy families in the east.

One day she read an advertisement in a religious magazine telling of a new community of sisters in northern Wisconsin. The community was dedicated to Mary, to whom Margaret had a great devotion.

Soon thereafter, on April 20, 1927, she arrived totally unannounced on the sisters' doorstep in Ladysmith. Her arrival coincided with a Friday in Lent. Her Irish wit sent the postulants and novices rolling with laughter, causing them to break the Lenten silence and merit a stern reprimand from their superior.

Margaret entered the Servants of Mary that very day. She became a novice on Jan. 1, 1928, and received the name Sister Mary Thomas, after her father. She made her first profession of vows on Feb. 12, 1929, and her final profession on Feb. 13, 1932.

Sister Mary Thomas worked in domestic services first at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith and then at the motherhouse. For a time, she also did housekeeping for the sisters at St. Louis Convent in Washburn, Wis. In 1958, she went to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where she remained until her death in 1984.

Sisters who knew her recalled how she seemed to sense their feelings, knowing when to cheer,



listen, scold, or joke. She enjoyed reading and was well-informed in history, politics, and human affairs.

Sister Mary Thomas died at Addolorata Villa on Feb. 17, 1984. She was 91. A wake service was held at the Villa on Feb. 19.

Father Charles Shekelton, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Feb. 21, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Teresa Gallivan, OSM

1905–1956

Margaret Elizabeth Gallivan was born in New York Mills, New York, on May 26, 1905, to Dennis and Mary (Dolan) Gallivan. She was baptized June 18, 1905. The second of six children, Margaret had one sister, Mildred, and four brothers, Edward, Vincent, Michael, and Joseph. Her brother Joseph became a Servite Friar and died suddenly after an appendectomy.

The family moved from New York to Chicago and settled in Our Lady of Sorrows Parish on Chicago's west side, where they became acquainted with the Servite Fathers. Margaret's father died of the flu in 1918. For a time afterwards, Margaret worked at Marshall Field's Department Store in Chicago to help her mother support the family.

Margaret entered the Servants of Mary on Feb. 2, 1934. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1934, and received the name Sister Mary Teresa. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1935, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1938.

Sister Mary Teresa taught at St. Paul's School in Weirton, W.Va., and St. Rose of Lima School in Roseville, Minn. Later she served for a time as director of novices for the congregation.

In 1955, Sister Mary Teresa was diagnosed with cancer. Her dentist detected the disease during treatment.

She had surgery in December 1955 and died just six weeks later, on Jan. 27, 1956, at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith. She was 50.

Sister Mary Evangelist, OSM, Sister Mary Philip, OSM, and a number of other sisters were at her bedside when she died.

Father James Doyle, OSM, presided at the funeral Mass in the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 30. Servite Fathers Gregory O'Brien and John Hanley concelebrated. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Xavier Ganahl, OSM

1904–1991

Anna Ganahl was born on Aug. 7, 1904, in Dubuque, Iowa, to Theodore and Mary (Maas) Ganahl. She was baptized on Aug. 21. She had two brothers, Matthew and John, and four sisters, Margaret, Josephine, Louise, and Cecilia.

Anna credited Father James McLennon, OSM, with influencing her to become a Servite. She entered the Servants of Mary on Nov. 16, 1934, at the age of 30. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1935, and received the name Sister Mary Xavier. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1936, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1939.

She taught in elementary schools in Minnesota, West Virginia, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. She also did clerical work at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith and Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill.

Sister Mary Xavier retired at Addolorata Villa in 1982, where she died on Nov. 6, 1991. She was 87.

Father Bernard Barnes, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at the Villa on Nov. 9. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith on Nov. 10, with Father Edward Mumper officiating. ■



Sister Cecilia Mary Gaydos, OSM 1923–1998

Cecilia Gaydos was born on Feb. 8, 1923, in Weirton, W.Va., to Emory and Anna (Pillas) Gaydos. Cecilia's father immigrated to the United States from Czechoslovakia as a young man and became a US citizen. He later served in the army. Her mother was born in Ohio of Czech parents.

Cecilia was the eldest girl and the second of six children. She had four brothers, Edward, Emory, Bernard, and D. Timothy, and one sister, Martha. Her oldest brother, Edward, entered the Servite seminary when Cecilia was 12 and became a priest.

Cecilia served as a WAVE in the United States Navy from July 1943 to December 1945. During that time she was stationed at Bethesda Hospital in Maryland, where she trained and worked as a dental hygienist. After leaving the navy, she worked for a time as a clerk for Weirton Steel Company in Weirton, W.Va.

Cecilia entered the Servants of Mary on Dec. 14, 1949. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1950, and received the name Sister Mary Dolorita (she later returned to her baptismal name). She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1951, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1957.

She taught for a number of years in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois. She later studied medical records administration at St. Francis School in La Crosse, Wis., and then joined the team of Servite sisters who opened St. Mary's Hospital in Kewaunee, Wis., in 1959.

Sister Cecilia served as registrar at Mount Senario College in Ladysmith from 1968 to 1970 and worked as a dental hygienist in Ladysmith from 1971 to 1977. She later worked in the Servants of Mary finance office and served as the congregation's treasurer from 1983 to 1987. During her



years in Ladysmith, Sister Cecilia also volunteered as an interviewer for Meals on Wheels.

Sister Cecilia's favorite leisure activity, summer or winter, was fishing. She was attracted not just by the sport, but by the sky, the water, all of nature. In this relaxing atmosphere, she took time to talk to God. She said that she never felt alone when surrounded by God's creation.

Sister Cecilia died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage on the evening of Jan. 30, 1998. She was 74.

Her brother Father Edward Gaydos, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Feb. 3, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Berchmans Geisler, OSM **1909–1993**

Marie Victoria Geisler was born on July 18, 1909, in Terry, South Dakota, to John and Julia (Schosser) Geisler. Her parents immigrated to the United States from Tyrol, Austria. She had seven brothers, Sebastian, George, Robert, John, Jake, Joseph, and Carl, and two sisters, Julia and Amelia.

At the age of 14, Marie made a quilt for her little sister Amelia. Each square depicted a nursery rhyme. She completed the project with the same focus and determination that she exhibited throughout her life.

Marie entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 8, 1928. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1929, and received the name Sister Mary Berchmans. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1930, and her final profession on Aug. 17, 1933.

Sister Mary Berchmans taught in elementary schools in Ladysmith and Thorp, Wis.; Hillside and Northfield, Ill.; Roseville and St. Louis Park, Minn.; and Weirton, W.Va. She also served as principal. In the summer, she taught religion in the Diocese of Superior in parishes without Catholic schools. She also conducted summer camps for inner city children in Chicago.

Sister Mary Berchmans served on the Servants of Mary Council, was an assistant to Mother Mary Rose Smith, OSM, and was director of aspirants.

Children always delighted her, and she delighted her Servite sisters with her simplicity. She lived a life of total dedication. She spoke of sacrifice, walked it patiently, and prayed it daily.

She retired at the motherhouse in 1987. There she put on an apron each morning, checked with the cook on what vegetables needed peeling, and helped out however she could.



Sister Mary Berchmans died at Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home on Feb. 5, 1993. She was 83.

Father Edward Mumper presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Feb. 8, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister M. Anastasia Hajkulinecz, OSM

1909–1991

Maria Hajkulinecz was born on May 3, 1909, in Austria-Hungary (Czechoslovakia) to Charles and Anna (Fajetka) Hajkulinecz. Her family immigrated to the United States on May 19, 1913. Maria was the eldest of four children. She had two sisters, Anna Maria (Sister Anne Marie Hakul, OSM) and Helen, and one brother, Charles.

Maria's father was a Greek Catholic and her mother a Roman Catholic. Maria was a Catholic of the Greek Ruthenian Rite and was baptized and confirmed in the Greek Catholic Rite. After her final profession as a Servite sister, she officially changed to the Roman Rite.

As a young woman, Maria did housekeeping and factory work. One day while browsing through the "Sorrowful Mother Magazine," published by the Servite Friars, she came upon an article about a new congregation of Servite Sisters in Ladysmith. In the article, the sisters invited women to join them, saying: "We need help to grow and do God's work."

Maria was moved to answer the call and applied for admission. Mother Mary Alphonse Bradley, OSM, asked Sister Mary Josephine Minter, OSM, and Sister Mary Dolores Schiller, OSM, to visit Maria in Cleveland, Ohio, on their way home from Weirton, W.Va. Maria's mind was already made up when the sisters arrived. She packed her bags and accompanied the sisters to Ladysmith.

Maria entered the Servants of Mary on June 7, 1927. One month later, her sister Anna Maria followed her into the convent. (Anna Maria later changed her surname to Hakul.)

Maria became a novice on Jan. 1, 1928, and received the name Sister Mary Anastasia. She made her first profession of vows on Feb. 12, 1929, and her final profession on Feb. 13, 1932.



Sister Mary Anastasia worked as a cook at St. Domitilla Convent in Hillside, Ill.; St. Bernard Convent in Thorp, Wis.; and St. Paul Convent in Weirton, W.Va. She spent 21 years in Weirton.

She was food service manager at St. Mary's Hospital and St. Joseph on the Flambeau Nursing Home in Ladysmith in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1973 she went to Addolorata Villa, where she worked in the kitchen and dining room.

Sister Mary Anastasia retired at the Villa in 1980. She died of congestive heart failure on Jan. 24, 1991. She was 81.

Servite Fathers Bernard Barnes, OSM, Thomas Calkins, OSM, and Louis Cortney, OSM, concelebrated the Mass of Christian Burial at the Villa on Jan. 28. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith on Jan. 30. ■

Sister Anne Marie Hakul, OSM

1911–2005

Anna Maria Hajkulinecz was born on Dec. 6, 1911, in Davitkovo, Austria-Hungary (Czechoslovakia) to Charles and Anna (Fajetka) Hajkulinecz. Her family immigrated to the United States on May 19, 1913, and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. She had two sisters, Maria (Sister Mary Anastasia, OSM) and Helen, and one brother, Charles.

Anna was baptized in the Greek Catholic Church in Davitkovo and was a Catholic of the Greek Ruthenian Rite. She changed to the Roman Rite after her final profession as a Servant of Mary.

Before entering the convent, Anna worked for the GreenHaas Schwartz Company in Cleveland. She first learned of the Ladysmith Servite Sisters from an article in the “Sorrowful Mother Magazine” published by the Servite Friars. She told her sister Maria about the congregation, and Maria entered on June 7, 1927.

Anna Maria followed her sister to Ladysmith a month later and entered on July 10, 1927. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1928, and received the name Sister Mary Benedict (she later returned to her baptismal name in its anglicized form, Anne Marie). She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1929, and her final profession on Aug. 17, 1933.

On May 14, 1945, she became a US citizen, and in 1968 she changed her surname to Hakul.

Sister Anne Marie earned a bachelor’s degree in education from De Paul University in Chicago. She taught for almost forty years in elementary schools staffed by the Servants of Mary in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

In 1972, she moved to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where she served as the billing clerk in the finance office. During her years at the



Villa, she also worked in the admissions office and as a receptionist.

When she retired in 1981, she remained active as a volunteer at the Villa. She managed the Villa gift shop and also helped out at the Sisters Store in Wheeling.

In her final years, Sister Anne Marie suffered from Alzheimer’s disease. She died peacefully at the Villa on March 29, 2005. She was 93.

Father Thomas Heskin, OSM, presided at a memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on April 2. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on April 4, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Boniface Hayes, OSM 1878–1964

Anna Hayes, one of the founders of the Servants of Mary of Ladysmith, was born on June 20, 1878, in Cumberland, England, to John and Esther (Stratton) Hayes. She was baptized on June 30 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Cleator, Cumberland. She had one sister, Madeline, and one brother, Patrick.

In May 1886, when Anna was eight years old, the family immigrated to the United States and settled in Chicago.

On Sept. 12, 1911, at the age of 33, Anna joined the Sisters of St. Joseph at La Grange, Ill. She was a novice in 1912 when Father Boniface Efferenn, OSM, encouraged a number of sisters from La Grange to go to Ladysmith to teach in the new parochial school and to start a new Servite foundation.

Anna was eager to be a part of the project. She left the La Grange community on Sept. 12, 1912, and spent a year with her family in Chicago before traveling to Ladysmith to join the five sisters who had arrived the previous year. Anna stepped off the train in Ladysmith on Aug. 12, 1913, decked out in a red dress and carrying a parasol.

She was invested in the Servite habit as a novice along with the other five founders on Feb. 12, 1914, and received the name Sister Mary Boniface. She made her first profession of vows on July 24, 1915, and her final profession on Aug. 8, 1919.

Sister Mary Boniface worked with Sister Mary Alphonse Bradley, OSM, in overseeing the construction of St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith. For many years, Sister Mary Boniface cooked, kept house, and looked after the maintenance of the hospital, the motherhouse, and the Sisters' farm.

She served as a member of the Servants of Mary General Council from the time the congregation was approved as an independent religious institute in 1919 until 1955. Following the death of



Mother Mary Rose Smith, OSM, on Jan. 25, 1955, Bishop Joseph J. Annabring appointed Sister Mary Boniface to serve as Prioress General until the election of Mother Mary Patricia McLaughlin, OSM, on Aug. 18, 1955.

In her later years Sister Mary Boniface was plagued by arthritis. Yet even then she took an active interest in the daily life of the community at the motherhouse where she resided.

Sister Mary Boniface died in Ladysmith on July 11, 1964, less than a month after Father Boniface was laid to rest. She was 86.

Father Gerard Calkins, OSM, presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass in the motherhouse chapel on July 14, assisted by Father Patrick Roche, OSM, and Father Clarence Ludwig of St. Francis Parish, Spooner, Wis. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Kathleen Mary Healy, OSM

1914–1984

Kathleen Margaret Healy was born in Chicago, Ill., on March 21, 1914, to John and Ellen (Daly) Healy. She was baptized on April 5, 1914, at St. Malachy Church in Chicago. She had two sisters, Mary and Olive (Sister Mary Eleanor, OSM), and one brother, John

Kathleen entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 16, 1938, at the age of 24. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1939, and received the name Sister Mary Olive (she later returned to her baptismal name). She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1940, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1946. In 1949, her sister Olive also entered the Ladysmith congregation and was known as Sister Mary Eleanor.

As a novice, Sister Kathleen Mary frequently performed Irish dances for the professed sisters. She later delighted in teaching this art to the younger members of the community.

Sister Kathleen Mary taught in elementary schools in Wisconsin, Illinois, West Virginia, and New Jersey. At one time she had a class of 80 second graders at St. Domitilla School in Hillside, Ill. She is remembered for the personal attention she gave to each of her students.

Sister Kathleen Mary served for a time as a practical nurse and dietitian at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith and St. Mary's Hospital in Kewaunee, Wis. She also oversaw the infirmary at the motherhouse for many years.

She retired in 1968 due to ill health. In 1979, she moved to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. She enjoyed painting and produced many beautiful water colors in her later years.

In her final years at the Villa, she suffered from severe headaches. Her sister, Sister Mary Eleanor, attended to her with loving devotion and care.



Sister Kathleen Mary died on Nov. 9, 1984, at the age of 70.

Father Michael Doyle, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at Addolorata Villa on Nov. 12, with burial in the family plot at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, Ill. ■

Sister Mary Eleanor Healy, OSM

1916–2000

Olive Healy was born in Chicago, Ill., on March 31, 1916, to John and Ellen (Daly) Healy. Both her parents were born in Ireland. She had two sisters, Mary and Kathleen (Sister Kathleen Mary, OSM), and one brother, John.

Olive graduated from Resurrection Elementary School and Providence High School in Chicago. She earned a bachelor's and master's degree from DePaul University in Chicago.

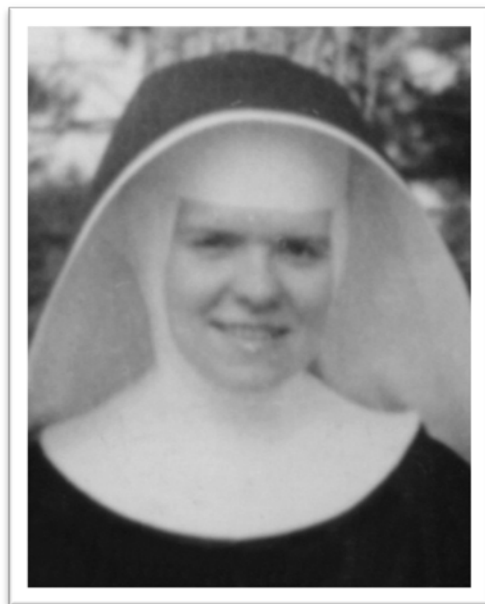
Olive entered the Servants of Mary on Feb. 15, 1949, at the age of 32. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1949, and received the name Sister Mary Eleanor. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1950, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1956.

Sister Mary Eleanor taught elementary school in West Virginia, Illinois, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. She was also talented in business and finance, and shared this gift in service at Mount Senario College in Ladysmith and Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill.

She enjoyed relaxing over a good meal with friends. She also enjoyed going to new places and trying new things, and once ventured a plane ride through the Grand Canyon. Her hobbies were watching movies and plays, working crossword puzzles, roller skating, and swimming.

She had a deep love for her family and cared for them when they were in need. This was evidenced in the loving care she gave to Sister Kathleen Mary after her sister's stroke.

Sister Mary Eleanor spent her retirement years at Addolorata Villa, where she served as treasurer for the sisters' community. She died at the Villa on June 21, 2000. She was 84.



In keeping with her request, Father Michael Doyle, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at Addolorata Villa on June 26. Like her sister, Sister Kathleen Mary, who preceded her in death, Sister Mary Eleanor was buried in the family plot at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, Ill. ■

Sister Mary Joseph Heiman, OSM

1893–1959

Mary Elizabeth Heiman was born in Chicago, Ill., on July 13, 1893, to Joseph and Elizabeth (Chambers) Heiman. She was baptized at Holy Trinity Church in Chicago on Aug. 1.

Mary Elizabeth entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 31, 1921, at age 28. She became a novice on June 19, 1922, and received the name Sister Mary Joseph. She made her first profession of vows on June 20, 1923, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1926.

She completed her secondary education at St. Mary's High School in Ladysmith and then entered St. Mary's Training School for Nurses in Ladysmith. Later she studied at the Milwaukee Children's Hospital School of Nursing and completed the course in 1926.

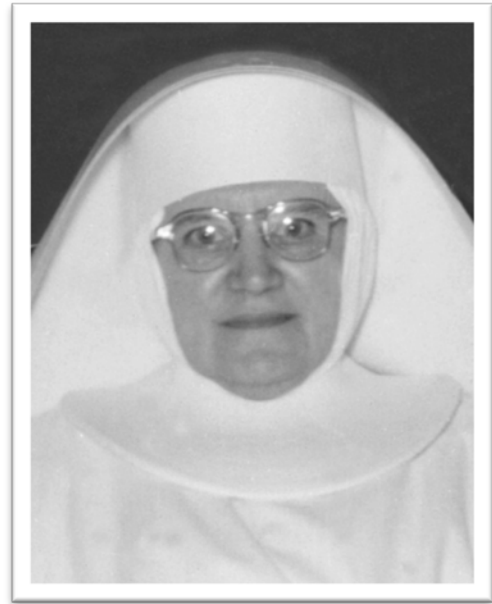
Sister Mary Joseph was superior of the night nurses at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith. She often prepared special night meals for the nurses.

One day a man came to the hospital late at night asking for food. Sister Mary Joseph knew that every restaurant in town would be closed at that hour, so she took him to the kitchen and prepared him a meal of ham and eggs and potatoes. Sometime later she discovered that her late night guest was the notorious outlaw John Dillinger, on his way to his Northwood's hideout.

Sister Mary Joseph worked a twelve-hour shift, from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. She was up at 4:00 p.m. every afternoon to pray the office and recite the Seven Dolor Rosary with the community. She also joined the sisters for evening prayer.

Sister Mary Joseph developed cancer and died on Aug. 30, 1959, after a lingering illness. She was 66.

Her funeral Mass was celebrated at the motherhouse chapel on Sept. 2, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Stanislaus Hejna, OSM 1892–1996

Anna Hejna was born on Nov. 24, 1892, in Chicago, Ill., to Frank and Anna (Rasplicka) Hejna. Her parents were born in Bohemia. She had six brothers, Frank, Joseph, John, James, George, and Edward, and seven sisters, Mary, Otila, Emma, Rose, Sylvia, Ella, and Agnes.

Anna was a convert to Catholicism. She entered the Servants of Mary on Dec. 28, 1926. She became a novice on Aug. 14, 1927, and received the name Sister Mary Stanislaus. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1928, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1931.

Prior to entering the congregation, she graduated from the School of Nursing at Oak Park Hospital in Chicago, Ill., on June 9, 1926. Later she attended St. John's Hospital of Anesthesia in Springfield, Ill., and graduated on Nov. 1, 1941. Sister Mary Stanislaus worked as a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith and at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill.

In the early days of the congregation, the sisters often went begging for provisions to support the hospital in Ladysmith. On one such trip, Sister Mary Stanislaus met a surly farmer who was reluctant to make a donation. Finally, yielding to her persistence, he said: "You can have the runt pig if you can catch it." Sister got the farmer's children to join in the chase by promising a holy card to all who helped and a medal to the one who caught the pig. That afternoon she went home with the pig.

In later years, when the congregation was experiencing a shortage of teachers, Sister Mary Stanislaus was called upon to teach in elementary schools in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, West Virginia, and New Jersey.

In 1971, she went to live at Addolorata Villa, where she kept busy doing volunteer work in the laundry and with the residents.



Sister Mary Stanislaus was the first member of the congregation to reach the milestone of 100 years. She died at Addolorata Villa on May 21, 1996, at the age of 103.

Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on May 24. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the mother-house chapel on May 25, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Arlene Hendricks, OSM

1926–2005

Mary Ellen Van Ryzin was born on Jan. 15, 1927, in Madison, Wis., to Agatha Van Ryzin and Leo Kraft. She was baptized at St. Paul's Chapel in Madison on Feb. 13, 1927. When she was 13 months old, she was adopted by August and Elizabeth (Boss) Hendricks of Ladysmith, Wis., who named her Mary Arlene. She had one brother, Richard, and two sisters, Patricia Ann and Jeanne Rose, all of whom were also adopted.

Mary Arlene attended Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary School in Ladysmith, where she met the Servite Sisters and became attracted to their way of life.

She entered the Servants of Mary on June 18, 1944, following her graduation from Our Lady of Sorrows High School. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1945, and received the name Sister Mary Annella (she later returned to Mary Arlene). She made her first profession of vows on Feb. 12, 1947, and her final profession on Feb. 12, 1953.

Sister Mary Arlene earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mount Senario College in Ladysmith. She studied theology at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis., and art at the College of St. Catherine and Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minn.

From 1950 to 1987, Sister Mary Arlene taught art, music, and regular classes in elementary schools in Illinois, Minnesota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. From 1987 to 2004, she worked as a free lance artist out of her Sun Rise Studio at the motherhouse in Ladysmith and gave art workshops at Servite Center for Life.

In 1995, Sister Mary Arlene collaborated with area ministers to begin a healing ministry in conjunction with Servite Center for Life. In 2002, the National Shrine of St. Peregrine presented her with the St. Peregrine Award for her contributions to healing ministry in Northern Wisconsin.



In 1973, Sister Mary Arlene was reunited with her birth mother, Agatha, who was living in Green Bay, Wis. Agatha had joined the Misericordia Sisters, a community founded to care for expectant single mothers rejected by society. Sister Agatha, as she was known in religious life, died in 1993.

On Dec. 18, 2004, Sister Mary Arlene suffered a heart attack. After two weeks of hospitalization, she became a resident of Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home in Ladysmith. She suffered another heart attack on July 5, 2005, and died at Rusk County Memorial Hospital on July 21, 2005. She was 78.

Father Ephrem Pottamplackal, MCBS, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Ladysmith on July 25, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Rosalie Hennessey, OSM

1929–2011

Frances Hennessey was born June 29, 1929, in St. Paul, Minn., to Edward and Rosella (Francois) Hennessey. She had an older sister, Helen, and two younger brothers, Edward and Thomas.

She grew up in Cylon, Wis., a small town east of New Richmond, where she met the Servite Sisters who taught catechism in the surrounding parishes. As a teenager, she worked as a carhop at the A&W Root Beer stand in New Richmond.

She attended two years of high school in New Richmond and then transferred to Our Lady of Sorrows High School in Ladysmith.

She entered the Servants of Mary on July 2, 1947. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1948, and received the name Sister Mary Rosalie, after her mother. She later shortened her name to Rosalie. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1949, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1955.

She earned a bachelor's in education from the College of St. Catherine and a master's in counseling from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn.

She began her ministry of service as a teacher and principal at St. Rose of Lima School, Roseville, Minn., where she worked for sixteen years. She then served as chair of the education department and assistant to the president at Mount Senario College, Ladysmith, for fourteen years. While at Mount Senario, she served a three-year term on the Servants of Mary Leadership Team.

She moved to Tampa, Fla., in 1982 and served for ten years as executive director of Alpha House of Tampa, a crisis center for pregnant women. In 2001 Alpha named a new building "The Rosalie Center" in her honor.

She served as director of grants and services of the Conn Memorial Foundation, Tampa, for eight years. She also chaired the grants committee of the



Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center and served on the board of the Mary Alphonse Bradley Fund, a sponsored ministry of the Ladysmith Servite Sisters.

Sister Rosalie died at St. Joseph's Hospital, Tampa, Fla., on Aug. 31, 2011, from complications following open heart surgery the previous day. She was 82. She is remembered and admired as a visionary leader and tireless worker on behalf of people in need.

Father Augustine Mailadiyil presided at a memorial Mass for Sister Rosalie at Prince of Peace Church in Sun City Center, Fla., on Sept. 6. Father Shaji Pazhukkathara presided at the funeral Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Ladysmith on Sept. 10, with burial of her cremains in the convent cemetery. ■

Sister M. Jane Frances Holland, OSM

1919–2001

Margaret Mary Holland was born on April 19, 1919, in Pittsburgh, Pa., the only child of Edward and Elizabeth Theresa (Schaufele) Holland. She was baptized on May 7 at St. Luke Church in Carnegie, Pa.

She attended St. Paul School in Weirton, W.Va., where she was taught by Servite Sisters. Sister Mary Josephine Minter, OSM, was particularly influential in Margaret Mary's decision to join the Ladysmith congregation.

Margaret Mary entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 30, 1936. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1937, and received the name Sister Mary Jane Frances. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1938, and her final profession on Aug. 17, 1944.

Sister Mary Jane Frances studied music at Rosary College in River Forest, Ill.; St. Catherine College in Saint Paul, Minn.; and St. Benedict College in St. Joseph, Minn. She was an accomplished pianist and organist, and taught music for 35 years.

She gave private lessons to students at St. Rose of Lima School in Roseville, Minn., St. Domitilla School in Hillside, Ill., St. Joseph School in Carteret, N.J., and SS. Peter and Paul School in Weyerhaeuser, Wis. She played the organ for church choirs, weddings and funerals, and school functions. She once remarked, "Music has been my life."

Sister Mary Jane Frances retired in 1984 and went to live at Addolorata Villa, where she continued to share her musical talents. She played the organ for religious services and the piano for sing-a-longs with the residents. She also volunteered as an assistant in the dining room and helped the activity staff.

She lived her life in a simple and humble manner, which endeared her to those who knew her. In



her final years, she had to relinquish the pleasure of playing the organ and piano in public due to her declining vision and hearing.

On Aug. 13, 2001, Sister Mary Jane Frances suddenly collapsed. She was taken to Holy Family Medical Center in Des Plaines, Ill., where she died that same day. She was 82.

Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on Aug. 15. Father Albert Verdegan presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Aug. 16, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Joan Marie Hoolihan, OSM

1932–1980

Joan Marie Hoolihan was born on Sept. 11, 1932, in Carteret., N.J., to Thomas and Helen (Fleming) Hoolihan. Her father was an Irish immigrant. She had one brother, William, and one sister, Nancy.

Her family lived in St. Joseph Parish in Carteret, N.J., which was staffed by Servite Friars and Servite Sisters.

Joan Marie entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 30, 1950. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1951, and received the name Sister Mary Brendan (she later returned to her baptismal name). She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1952, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1958.

She graduated Our Lady of Sorrows High School in Ladysmith and earned a bachelor's degree from Mount Senario College.

Sister Joan Marie taught for many years in elementary schools in Illinois, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and New Jersey.

While teaching at St. Joseph School in Carteret, N.J., she was diagnosed with cancer. Following surgery, she continued to teach at St. Joseph's while the cancer was in remission, and later she worked in the parish rectory.

One day her friend Sister Patricia Ann Ferguson, OSM, suggested that God gave her the cancer to bear as a ministry because God so loved her, to which Sister Joan Marie replied: "I surely wish God would go and love someone else for awhile."

During her illness, Sister Joan Marie counseled other cancer patients and proved to be very adept at it. Finally, with her health continuing to fail, she returned to the motherhouse in Ladysmith.

She died on April 26, 1980, at Rusk County Memorial Hospital in Ladysmith. She was 47.



Father Charles Shekelton, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on April 29, with Father Daniel McCarthy, OSM, concelebrating. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith.

On May 8, 1980, Father Damian Kobus, OSM, and Father Vidal Martinez, OSM, concelebrated a memorial Mass for Sister Joan Marie at St. Joseph Church in Carteret, N.J. ■

Sister Mary Anne Hopfensperger, OSM 1909–1989

Louise Hopfensperger was born on Jan. 13, 1909, in Appleton, Wis., to Joseph and Anna (Bendixen) Hopfensperger. She had two brothers, Joseph and Edward, and two sisters Frances and Barbara.

Louise entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 14, 1932. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1933, and received the name Sister Mary Anne. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1934, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1937.

Sister Mary Anne taught for 40 years, ministering in elementary schools in Ladysmith, Thorp, and Menomonee Falls, Wis.; Hillside, Ill.; and Weirton, W.Va.

She served as treasurer for the Servants of Mary for six years. She also worked as companion and cook for an elderly lady in Weirton, W.Va., and cooked for the Franciscan Fathers in Steubenville, Ohio.

Sister Mary Anne was always interested in bargains and was a great collector of things, not all of them practical. During her tenure as community treasurer, she once purchased an old army bus and huge bolts of parachute fabric from an army surplus store.



When John F. Kennedy was campaigning for president in 1960, he made a stop at the motherhouse in Ladysmith on St. Patrick's Day. Sister Mary Anne, along with a group of postulants and sisters, stood out on the sidewalk to welcome him. A picture of that event, showing Sister Mary Anne pinning a shamrock on Kennedy's lapel, was captured by a photographer and published in *Life Magazine*. That photo was her greatest treasure.

Sister Mary Anne spent her retirement years at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. She died there on another St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1989. She was 80.

A memorial Mass was celebrated at the Villa on March 18. Father Brian DuBois presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on March 20, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Wilhelmina Jahns, OSM

1913–2008

Elizabeth “Betty” Louise Jahns was born on July 8, 1913, in Chicago, Ill., to Henry and Wilhelmina (Niesman) Jahns. She never knew her father, who died a month before she was born. She had three sisters, Cecilia, Lenore and Bernice.

Elizabeth attended St. Columbkille Elementary School and St. Columbkille Commercial High School in Chicago and then worked as a merchandise marker and secretary in Chicago.

She was a member of the Third Order of Servants of Mary (Secular Servites) in Chicago. Father Gerard Calkins, OSM, director of the Third Order, introduced her to the Servite Sisters at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill.

Elizabeth entered the Servants of Mary on Dec. 8, 1948, at age 35. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1949, and received the name Sister Mary Wilhelmina, after her mother. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1950, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1956.

Sister Mary Wilhelmina attended Mount Senario College in Ladysmith, where she worked for a time as manager of the bookstore. She taught typing and shorthand at Our Lady of Sorrows High School in Ladysmith. She also taught in elementary schools staffed by the Servants of Mary in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Wisconsin.

In 1973, Sister Mary Wilhelmina moved to Addolorata Villa, where she worked in the dining room and laundry and at the reception desk.

One of Sister Mary Wilhelmina’s most treasured experiences was a trip to Italy in 1975 to witness the canonization of Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first native-born citizen of the United States to be canonized by the Catholic Church. The event was especially meaningful to Sister Mary Wilhelmina because her own baptismal name was Elizabeth.



Sister Mary Wilhelmina spent her retirement years at Addolorata Villa, where she did volunteer work and visited the sick. On her 90th birthday, the sisters in her profession class surprised her with a party at the Villa. Five years later they surprised her again with a party on her 95th birthday.

Sister Mary Wilhelmina died at Addolorata Villa on Sept. 18, 2008. She was 95. Her cousin Father Harold Murphy presided at the Mass of Resurrection at Addolorata Villa on Sept. 22.

Sister Teresa Schueller, OSM, a member of her profession class, presented the reflection at a memorial service in the mother-house chapel on Sept. 24, followed by burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Sophia Jaskot, OSM 1917–1997

Lillian Eleanor Jaskot was born on April 4, 1917, in Chicago, Ill., to Walenty and Sophia (Trytek) Jaskot. She had two sisters, Anna and Stella.

As a child, Lillian attended Holy Innocents School in Chicago. The school was staffed by Felician Sisters and offered bilingual education in English and Polish. Later, Lillian worked for a number of years at the American Linen Supply Company in Chicago.

Lillian entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 14, 1944, at the age of 27. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1945, and received the name Sister Mary Sophia. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1946, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1952.

Sister Mary Sophia was a superb cook. Already as a postulant, she was assigned to the motherhouse kitchen, where she continued to prepare meals for the next eleven years. In 1956, she went to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where she served as head cook for over 20 years.

When she retired, she remained at the Villa and worked in a variety of volunteer ministries. She particularly enjoyed serving as receptionist.

She was famous for the Christmas villages she constructed each year at the Villa for the enjoyment of residents, staff, and visitors. After her death, others continued the tradition, adding ever new figures and designs to the display.

Sister Mary Sophia's sisters, Anna and Stella, worked in a Chicago laundry most of their lives. When they died, they left their savings to Sister Mary Sophia, who, in turn, offered the legacy to the Villa to fund the stained glass windows for the chapel. Liturgical artist Jerry Krauski designed the windows, which were installed when the chapel was renovated in 1997. Sister Mary Sophia's spe-



cial favorite was the window depicting St. Therese of Lisieux, to whom she was especially devoted.

Sister Mary Sophia died on July 9, 1997, at Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines, Ill. She was 80.

Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on July 12. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on July 14, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Geraldine Johnson, OSM
1911–1955

Helen Lucille Johnson was born on Dec. 29, 1910, in Chippewa Falls, Wis., to Thomas and Margaret (Deagon) Johnson. She was baptized Jan. 9, 1911. She had two brothers, Raymond and Robert, and three sisters, Kathleen, Dorothy, and Margaret.

Helen graduated from Notre Dame High School in Chippewa Falls. She entered the Servants of Mary on Feb. 15, 1929. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1929, and received the name Sister Mary Geraldine. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1930, and her final profession on Aug. 18, 1933.

Sister Mary Geraldine completed nurse's training at St. Mary's School of Nursing in Ladysmith and ministered as a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital for 26 years. She worked both in the operating room and as a primary care nurse.

In the summer of 1955, Sister Mary Geraldine was assigned to work as a nurse at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. On Aug. 30, 1955, two days after she arrived at the Villa, she collapsed and died of a heart attack. She was 44.

A Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in the motherhouse chapel on Sept. 2, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Vincent Joyce, OSM

1907–1985

Agnes Eileen Joyce was born on June 7, 1907, in Chicago, Ill., to Thomas and Nora (Linnane) Joyce. Here parents were Irish immigrants. She was baptized at St. Columbkil Church in Chicago. She had one sister, Helen, and one brother, Thomas.

She graduated from Providence High School in Chicago, a Catholic girls' school located within the boundaries of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, which was staffed by the Servite Friars.

Father Jerome Mulherin, OSM, who also played a role in the vocation of Sister Mary Jerome Benedix, OSM, was influential in guiding Agnes' steps toward Ladysmith.

Agnes entered the Servants of Mary in 1928. She had doubts about her vocation, however, and returned home to Chicago in 1929. The following year, she wrote to Mother Mary Alphonse Bradley, OSM, requesting readmission. She reentered the congregation on July 21, 1930, became a novice on Feb. 12, 1931, and received the name Sister Mary Vincent. She made her first profession of vows on Feb. 13, 1932, and her final profession on Feb. 12, 1935.

Most of Sister Mary Vincent's 53 years of religious life were spent working as a nursing assistant at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith. For a short time, she also ministered at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. In the late 1950s, she taught elementary school at St. Paul's in Weirton, W.Va., and Annunciata in Chicago, Ill.

She retired from active ministry in 1975 and lived at the motherhouse in Ladysmith. She later moved to Addolorata Villa, where she did volunteer work, often sitting at the bedside of a dying resident.

She was diagnosed with liver cancer on Dec. 17, 1985. On Christmas Eve, she transferred to the Villa infirmary. The sisters spent many hours



praying with her, and she was very appreciative of their presence. By then she could no longer speak because of shortness of breath.

Sister Mary Vincent died peacefully at the Villa on Dec. 27, 1985. She was 78.

Father Charles Shekelton, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Dec. 30, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Regina Kelleher, OSM

1911–1972

Mary Virginia Kelleher was born on March 16, 1911, in Newberry Post, Mass., to Dennis and Hannah (Lehone) Kelleher. She was baptized at Immaculate Conception Church on April 7. At the age of two and a half, she was adopted by Mrs. Mary Byrne. When Mrs. Byrne's husband died, Mary's care was transferred to the Sisters of Charity at St. Patrick's Convent in Lawrence, Mass.

Mary entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 10, 1931. She became a novice on Aug. 16, 1932, and received the name Sister Mary Regina. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1933, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1936.

Sister Mary Regina taught in elementary schools in West Virginia, Minnesota, New Jersey, Illinois, and Wisconsin, and was principal of Our Lady of Sorrows School in Ladysmith.

Coming from the eastern part of the United States, Sister Mary Regina had a pronounced Bostonian accent. When she taught first graders to read at St. Paul's School in Weirton, W.Va., they learned to pronounce their vowels with an eastern cadence.

Sister Mary Regina had a wonderful sense of humor. She once quipped, "I want a short superior, who can't see the dust on the top of the furniture."

Sister Mary Regina was diagnosed with cancer in 1971. She had cobalt therapy and surgery. During her illness, Sister Mary Aloysius Formby, OSM, was her constant, caring companion.

Sister Mary Regina died on Sept. 29, 1972, at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith. She was 61.

Father Thomas Heskin, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Oct. 2, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Leone Koehler, OSM

1921–2007

Leone Catherine Koehler was born on Oct. 20, 1921, in Weyerhaeuser, Wis., to George and Laura (Baribeau) Koehler. She was the second of eight children, with five brothers, Ervin, Thomas, Cletus, William, and Daniel, and two sisters, Arlene and Lorraine.

Leone had two aunts who were nuns, Sister Mary Colette Baribeau, OSM, a Ladysmith Servite, and Sister Mary Francesca Baribeau, OSM, an Omaha Servite. Writing about her own call to religious life, Leone said: “When I was five years old my aunt asked me what I was going to be, and I said, ‘A Sister Nurse.’ From that time on I knew I was going to the Servite convent in Ladysmith.”

Leone entered the Servants of Mary on Dec. 8, 1939. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1940, and received the name Sister Mary George (she later returned to her baptismal name). She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1941, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1947.

She taught elementary school for two years in Weirton, W.Va., before going on to study nursing, first at St. Francis School of Nursing in La Crosse, Wis., where she received an RN degree in 1947, and later at St. Louis University in St. Louis, Mo., where she received a BSN degree in 1955.

She ministered as a nurse at St. Mary’s Hospital in Ladysmith, St. Mary’s Memorial Hospital in Kewaunee, Wis., Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., and St. Luke’s Hospital in Chicago’s inner city. She cared for the sick and elderly poor in their homes while working for the Mile Square Health Center and the Visiting Nurses Association of Chicago.

In 1982, in search of a drier climate to alleviate her arthritis, she moved to Tucson, Ariz., where she worked as a home care nurse for St. Elizabeth Hospital from 1982 to 1993. In 1989 she was named Nurse of the Year by the Tucson Rotary Club. She retired in 1993.



Sister Leone was an avid social justice advocate. She participated in a candle-light vigil during the execution of a prisoner in Arizona, was arrested for protesting at a nuclear test site in Nevada, and drove an ambulance in a caravan delivering food and medical supplies to the people of El Salvador after the twelve-year civil war.

In 2002 she was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s and moved to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where she died peacefully on May 11, 2007. She was 85.

A memorial Mass was celebrated for her at the Villa on May 15. Father James Bartelme presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on May 16, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Stephen Koller, OSM

1912–2002

Helen Marie Koller was born on Dec. 26, 1912, in Chicago, Ill., to Anton and Corabelle (Engel) Koller. She was baptized at St. Francis Xavier Church in Chicago on Jan. 12, 1913. Her father was born in Germany and her mother in the United States. She had four brothers, Francis, Edward, William, and Thomas, and three sisters, Lucille, Dortha, and Margaret.

Helen grew up on the northwest side of Chicago in the Avondale-Lakeview area. Prior to entering the convent, she worked in the mailrooms of two different companies.

Her interest in religious life was sparked when she attended the first profession of her friend Sister Laurentia Zielinski, OSM, in August 1944 at the convent in Ladysmith. Helen entered the Servants of Mary on Feb. 2, 1947, at the age of 34. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1947, and received the name Sister Mary Stephen. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1948, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1954.

In 1949, she began working at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. In 1955, she completed LPN training at the School of Practical Nursing in La Salle, Ill. From 1964 to 1977, she worked as a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital and St. Joseph on the Flambeau Nursing Home in Ladysmith. In her later years, she ministered as a live-in companion to the elderly in Saint Paul, Minn., and Oak Brook, Ill. In 1985 she returned to Addolorata Villa and ministered as a chauffeur for the residents and sisters and assisted in the dining room.

In 1989 she retired at the Villa, where she volunteered as a receptionist and sat with the dying. She started the practice of leading the residents in the rosary each afternoon, and soon the people began calling her the "Rosary Sister." After her death, her legacy lived on with the



residents, who continued to gather to recite the rosary each afternoon.

In her leisure time, Sister Mary Stephen enjoyed reading mystery novels and doing crossword puzzles.

During her final years she suffered several illnesses and underwent a number of surgeries. She died of congestive heart failure at Addolorata Villa on July 31, 2002. She was 89.

Father Peregrine Graffius, OSM, presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on Aug. 5. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the mother-house chapel on Aug. 6, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Martha Kormendy, OSM

1927–2009

Martha Gezella Kormendy was born on June 3, 1927, in Java, S.D., the youngest of 16 children born to George Kormendy and Sophia (Zambo) Kormendy. Both of her parents were born in Hungary. Martha had nine sisters, Agnes, Ethel (Sister Mary Charles, OSB), Matilda, Anne, Margaret, Elizabeth, Gizella, Ann, and Irene, and six brothers, Joseph, John, Lawrence, Felix, Kalman, and Emil.

Martha learned of the Servite Sisters from Father Peter Minwegen, OMI, a missionary to the Dakotas who came to know and admire the Ladysmith Servites while serving in the nearby town of Cornell, Wis. She entered the community on Nov. 1, 1944 and became a novice on Aug. 15, 1945, receiving the name Sister Mary Philomena (she later returned to her baptismal name). She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1946, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1952.

Sister Martha's first assignments were to household duties. With further education, including a bachelor's degree from Mount Senario College in Ladysmith, she taught in elementary schools staffed by the Servants of Mary in Wisconsin, Illinois, and New Jersey. She took courses at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis., to prepare for ministry in religious education and then served on the religious education staff of the Diocese of Superior and as coordinator of religious education at parishes in Medford, New Richmond, Erin Prairie, and Bruce, Wis.

In 1986, Sister Martha moved to San Xavier Mission in Tucson, Ariz., to minister among the Papago Indians, a work she dearly loved. She left the Mission after nine years and worked for a time in home care in Tucson before retiring in 1997. While in Tucson, she joined a Witness for Peace delegation to Nicaragua, where she spent a week



living with the people and being a nonviolent presence.

In 2003 Sister Martha moved back to Wisconsin and settled in Bruce. She enjoyed spending time with friends, playing cards, hosting parties, playing the guitar, and singing.

In March 2009, Sister Martha was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, which had spread to her brain, lungs, and other organs. She decided against treatment and moved to Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home in Ladysmith, where she died on June 2, 2009, on the eve of her 82nd birthday.

In keeping with her wishes, her body was cremated. Father James Bartelme presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the mother-house chapel on June 6, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Immaculata LaRocca, OSM 1905–1958

Mary Felicia LaRocca was born on July 12, 1905, in Chicago, Ill., to Michael and Angeline (Pistiglione) LaRocca. Her parents were Italian immigrants. Mary Felicia had five brothers, Pascal, Michael, Louis, Joseph, and Daniel, and two sisters, Catherine and Angeline.

Mary Felicia entered the Servants of Mary on Dec. 8, 1927. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1928, and received the name Sister Mary Immaculata. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1929, and her final profession on Aug. 16, 1932.

Sister Mary Immaculata was the first woman to join the Ladysmith community from St. Domitilla Parish, Hillside, Ill., where the Servite Sisters began teaching in the fall of 1927.

Sister Mary Immaculata taught elementary school in West Virginia, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. Later she worked for eight years as registrar and bookkeeper at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith.

She developed cirrhosis of the liver and also severe hemorrhaging. Sister Leone Koehler, OSM, cared for her during her illness.

Sister Mary Immaculata died at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith on Jan. 8, 1958. She was 52.

Father Michael Doyle, OSM, presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass in the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 11. Father Clement Hanley, OSM, assisted as deacon, and Father Casimir Paul of St. Louis Parish in Washburn, Wis., as subdeacon. Father Manettus Marron, OSM, the newly appointed convent chaplain, delivered the homily. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Huberta Lavery, OSM

1906–1958

Marie Lavery was born on May 6, 1906, in Chicago, Ill., the only child of Hugh and Gertrude (Fair) Lavery. She was baptized on May 27 by Father Jerome Mulherin, OSM, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Chicago.

Marie's father, a policeman, was killed in the line of duty. When Marie was a little girl, she was trampled by a policeman's horse and left in critical condition. She was cured after being blessed by a priest. An ophthalmologist who later examined her said that her optic nerve was severed and she should be blind. Yet, she could see.

Marie graduated from Providence High School, a Catholic girls' school in Chicago. She earned a diploma from the Chicago Teachers College, and also had a master's degree. She taught music at Resurrection School and in the Chicago public schools. She served on the summer faculty of Loyola University in Chicago. She was a trained harpist and brought her harp with her to the convent.

Marie entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 15, 1929. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1930, and received the name Sister Mary Huberta. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1931, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1934.

She taught at St. Joseph School in Carteret, N.J., and St. Domitilla School in Hillside, Ill., where she served for 19 years. She had a special gift for working with small children. While at St. Domitilla's, she edited the Kindergarten Journal, a publication for kindergarten teachers in Catholic schools.

Sister Mary Huberta died of cancer on June 26, 1958. She was 52.



Father Clement Hanley, OSM, pastor of St. Domitilla's, presided at the funeral Mass in the motherhouse chapel on June 28. Father Manettus Marron, OSM, the motherhouse chaplain, delivered the homily. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Louise Lawinger, OSM 1909–2002

Marian Dorothy Lawinger was born on July 18, 1909, in Mineral Point, Wis., to Francis and Mary Louise (Brown) Lawinger. She was baptized on July 18 at St. Paul Church in Mineral Point. She had four brothers, Herman, Francis, Leslie, and Robert; and two sisters, Pearl and Sarah Marie.

Marian entered the Servants of Mary on Feb. 6, 1931. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1931, and received the name Sister Mary Louise, after her mother. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1932, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1935.

In the 1930s, Sister Mary Louise completed nursing training at St. Ann's Nursing School in Chicago and St. Mary's Nursing School in Ladysmith and became a registered nurse. In 1949, she completed training at St. Francis Hospital in La Crosse, Wis., and became a registered anesthetist.

She served as a nurse and anesthetist at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith, St. Mary's Memorial Hospital in Kewaunee, Wis., and Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. Her nursing career spanned 43 years. She later ministered in pastoral care at Rusk County Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home in Ladysmith. She once said, "I have always felt part of the healing ministry of the Church."

An avid reader, she kept informed on current affairs and developed a keen interest in promoting social justice. In 1984, she joined several other Servite sisters in Tucson, Ariz., where she volunteered doing home nursing and pastoral care among the poor.

When her health no longer permitted such physically demanding work, she moved to Addolorata Villa, where she ministered to the residents and her sisters in need.



When asked to name her special interests and hobbies, she wrote: "People, especially caring for the poor, lonely, and ill elderly. Reading of Scripture, spiritual books, news, and problems, and what I should do in such apparent hopeless problems of the times in the world."

Sister Mary Louise died on Jan. 28, 2002, at Addolorata Villa. She was 92.

Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on Feb. 1. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Feb. 2, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Julia Layda, OSM

1915–2007

Agnes Mary Layda was born on May 6, 1915, in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, the only child of Anthony and Julia (Bordis) Layda, recent immigrants from Czechoslovakia.

Agnes' father died when she was about three. Her mother then married a widower, John Pavc (aka Pavic), who brought four small children to the marriage, giving Agnes a stepbrother, John, Jr., and three stepsisters, Alice, Pauline, and Sophie. Agnes' mother and stepfather together had five more children, increasing Agnes' family by three half-brothers, Louis, Charles, and Robert, and two half-sisters, Helen and Jackie.

The family moved to Chicago, where her stepfather worked for a steel mill on the north side. Agnes liked school and enjoyed performing in plays and musicals. At age 14, with her eighth-grade diploma in hand and unable to afford high school, she took a job in a novelty company, where she earned \$7.00 a week.

Agnes became acquainted with Servites at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago, where she attended the Sorrowful Mother Novena. She entered the Servants of Mary in Ladysmith on June 19, 1942, at age 27. She became a novice on Aug. 14, 1943, and received the name Sister Mary Julia, after her mother. She later shortened her name to Sister Julia. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1944, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1950.

She worked as a nurse's aide at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith for about five years and then attended St. Francis School of Nursing in La Crosse, Wis., where she was awarded an RN degree in 1952. Later she also earned a bachelor's degree from Mount Senario College in Ladysmith.

Sister Julia ministered as a registered nurse for over 30 years, first at St. Mary's Hospital in Lady-



smith and then at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill.

In 1984 she joined a group of Servite Sisters at Our Lady Gate of Heaven Parish in Chicago's inner city, where she volunteered in the school library and taught religion to the children. In 1992, she retired to the motherhouse in Ladysmith.

She suffered a stroke in the fall of 2005 and moved to Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home in Ladysmith, where she died peacefully on Nov. 5, 2007. She was 92.

In keeping with her wishes, her body was cremated. She was the first Sister in the community to have this form of burial.

Columban Father Jerry Wilmsen, SSCME, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Nov. 9, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Joan LeBlanc, OSM

1919–2012

Irene LeBlanc was born on Jan. 9, 1919, in Ladysmith, Wis., to James Fredrick and Laura Ann (Wolfe) LeBlanc, the second of seven children. She had four sisters, Katherine, Virginia, Dorothy, and Arlene, and two brothers, Leroy and Stephen.

She attended St. Mary's Grade School and Our Lady of Sorrows High School in Ladysmith and entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 8, 1934. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1935, and received the name Sister Mary Joan. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1937, and her final profession on Aug. 14, 1943.

Sister Joan earned a bachelor's degree in English and a master's in counseling and guidance from the University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, Minn. She ministered as a teacher and principal in Catholic elementary schools for 20 years, 18 of them at St. Rose of Lima School in Roseville, Minn.

She returned to Ladysmith in 1960 to serve as director of aspirants and to teach at Servite High School. A year later she was elected to the Sisters' General Council and served as First Councilor until the death of Mother Mary Patricia McLaughlin in 1965. She was elected to succeed Mother Patricia as Prioress General. Six years later she was reelected to a second term, during which the titles "Mother" and "Prioress General" were replaced by "Sister" and "President."

Sister Joan's years in office were among the most turbulent in the life of the community. The Second Vatican Council ended in 1965, the same year she became congregational leader. During her nine years in office, 51 professed sisters left the community and only seven new members entered and remained in religious life.

Scarce funds and declining membership necessitated the divestiture of all the community's sponsored ministries in Ladysmith (the high school,



college, hospital, and nursing home), the sale of the Sisters' farm, and the withdrawal of teaching Sisters from many Catholic schools. Despite these challenges, Sister Joan encouraged sisters to complete their degrees and prepare themselves for emerging ministries.

Sister Joan returned to teaching in 1974, following her years in leadership. She retired in 1992 and moved to the motherhouse in Ladysmith, where she continued to find ways to be of service.

She died on June 5, 2012, at Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home in Ladysmith. She was 93.

Father Shaji Pazhukkathara presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Ladysmith on June 8, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Augustin Leonhard, OSM 1903–1993

Eva Frances Leonhard was born on Sept. 28, 1903, at Cooperstown, Wis., to Louis and Rosalie (Leickhauf) Leonhard. She had six brothers, Ferdinand, Bernard, Louis, Adam, Peter, and Anthony, and three sisters, Rose, Delia, and Mary. Sometime after her birth, her family moved to a farm in Tony, Wis.

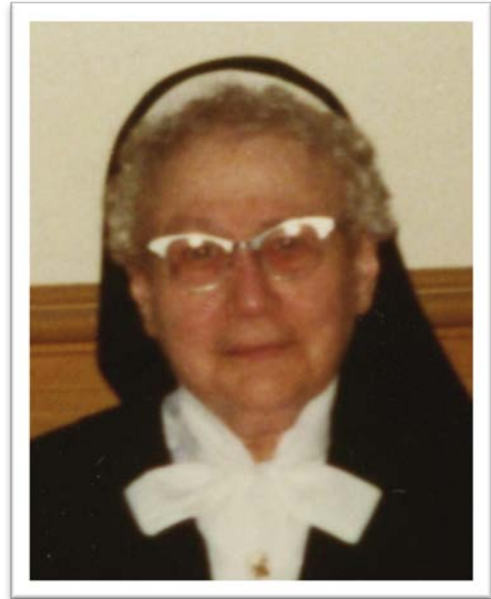
The Servite Friars, who arrived in Ladysmith in 1910, began serving the parish in Tony in 1911. When the sisters arrived in Ladysmith in 1912, Father Hyacinth Wieczorek, OSM, often took them with him to visit the Leonhard home on Saturday morning, and they always returned with meat and vegetables for the following week. The sisters prepared Eva for her First Communion and sewed the veil she wore that day.

Eva entered the Servants of Mary on May 3, 1920, at the age of 16. The community had been approved as an independent diocesan congregation just six months earlier. Eva's arrival brought the number of members to eight. The sisters then lived on the second floor of St. Mary's School in Ladysmith (the first motherhouse was ready for occupancy the following on Christmas Eve).

Eva became a novice on Dec. 30, 1920, and received the name Sister Mary Augustin. She made her first profession of vows on April 1, 1922, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1925.

Sister Mary Augustin's teaching career spanned 40 years. She began teaching at St. Mary's School in Ladysmith in 1923. She later taught in other schools in Wisconsin, as well as in West Virginia, Illinois, and New Jersey.

In 1952, she served as supervisor of schools staffed by the congregation in Chicago, West Virginia, and New Jersey. In 1961, she taught history at Servite High School in Ladysmith.



She retired in 1964 for health reasons and moved to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. She did beautiful handwork and sewing in her retirement years.

Sister Mary Augustin died at Addolorata Villa on Oct. 9, 1993. She was 90.

Father Marion Sneig presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on Oct. 14. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the motherhouse chapel on Oct. 15, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Bridget Mahoney, OSM 1901–1989

Elizabeth Susanna Mahoney was born on April 5, 1901, in Faribault, Minn., to William and Mary Elizabeth (Duchene) Mahoney. She had two sisters, Theresa and Marion, and six brothers, George, Harold, Lester, Joseph, Clifton, and Raymond.

Her family moved to West Virginia, where she met Father Arthur D. McSwiggan, pastor of St. Paul's Church in Weirton. He introduced her to the Servite Sisters, who taught in the parish school.

Elizabeth entered the Servants of Mary on June 16, 1934, at the age of 33. She became a novice on Jan. 1, 1935, and received the name Sister Mary Bridget. She made her first profession of vows on Jan. 2, 1936, and her final profession on Jan. 1, 1939.

Sister Mary Bridget loved horses and actively promoted the preservation of wild horses. In 1947, she began a letter writing campaign to members of congress asking them to ban the running and hunting of wild horses by plane. In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the ban into law. Together with "Wild Horse Annie" Velma Johnston of Reno, Sister Mary Bridget helped save the wild mustangs of the west.

Mother Mary Alphonse Bradley, OSM, asked Sister Mary Bridget to start a garden on the motherhouse grounds to provide produce for the convent and St. Mary's Hospital. Sister Mary Bridget tended the garden for over 30 years. For a time, she had a donkey named Brother Francis, and later a horse named Brother Dick, which she used to cultivate the garden. She also raised chickens to provide the sisters with eggs and meat.

Sister Mary Bridget was a talented artist. She painted horses and dogs in their natural settings. She constructed a wooden outdoor nativity set, which was used during the Christmas season first



at St. Mary's hospital in Ladysmith and later at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill.

In 1970, Sister Mary Bridget moved to Addolorata Villa, where she worked in the kitchen, dining room, and sewing room. She was handy with tools and even did upholstery. In her retirement years, she kept busy making rosaries for the missions.

Sister Mary Bridget died at Addolorata Villa on Feb. 28, 1989. She was 87.

Father David Oberts presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on March 4, assisted by Father Edward Mumper and Deacon Richard Brockbank. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Francis Mathae, OSM 1899–1976

Anna Mathae was born on May 26, 1899, in Kennan, Wis., to Frank and Marie (Phleiger) Mathae. Her parents were Austrian immigrants. She had three brothers, Frank, John, and Joe, and three sisters, Katherine, Theresa, and one whose name is unknown.

Anna entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 1, 1919, at the age of 20. She was one of the pioneer members of the congregation, which received official approbation several months after she entered.

She became a novice on June 19, 1920, and received the name Sister Mary Francis. She made her first profession of vows on July 17, 1921, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1925.

Sister Mary Francis taught in elementary schools in Ladysmith and Thorp, Wis.; Weirton, W.Va.; Saint Paul, Minn.; and Carteret, N.J. She also gave private music lessons and presented an annual recital for her students and their parents.

In the 1940s, she helped raise funds for Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., by soliciting donations from businesses in Chicago.

She spent her last years in treatment at the Little Company of Mary Health Facility in San Pierre, Ind., where she died on March 5, 1976. She was 76.

Father Thomas Heskin, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on March 8, assisted by Father John Slowey and Father James Jackson. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Vivian Mayer, OSM

1935–1999

Vivian Virginia Mayer was born on June 21, 1935, in Evanston, Ill., the third child of Vincent and Louise (Stoffels) Mayer. She was baptized in St. Athanasius Parish in Evanston. She had one brother, Vincent, and one sister, Catherine, who joined the Sisters of Providence of Galesburg, Ill.

Prior to joining the Ladysmith community, Vivian worked in general office and billing for North Shore Dist., Inc., in Evanston, Ill., for seven years.

She entered the Servants of Mary on Dec. 8, 1960, at age 25. She became a novice on June 19, 1961, and received the name Sister Mary Dominic (she later returned to her baptismal name). She made her first profession of vows on June 20, 1962, and her final profession on June 19, 1968.

She taught elementary school at Annunciata in Chicago, Ill., and St. Paul's in Weirton, W. Va. She worked as a secretary for Catholic Charities in Chicago and for St. Mary's Hospital and the Servants of Mary in Ladysmith. She also served for a time as a receptionist at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill.

Sister Mary Vivian pursued training in home health care and served as a home health aide in Saint Paul, Minn. She was a volunteer in Respite Care and Volunteers People, Inc., and in 1987 was named Volunteer of the Year by Volunteers People. In 1991, she moved to Wheeling, Ill., where she worked with Caring Companions Home Health Care.

Sister Mary Vivian suffered from a variety of ailments, including multiple myeloma, arthritis, edema, cellulitis, psoriasis, sleeplessness, and diabetes. She accepted her infirmities with grace and patience.



She died on Feb. 7, 1999, from complications of multiple myeloma while in hospice care at Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove Village, Ill. She was 63.

Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on Feb. 11. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the mother-house chapel on Feb. 13, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Cecilia McCabe, OSM
1881–1959

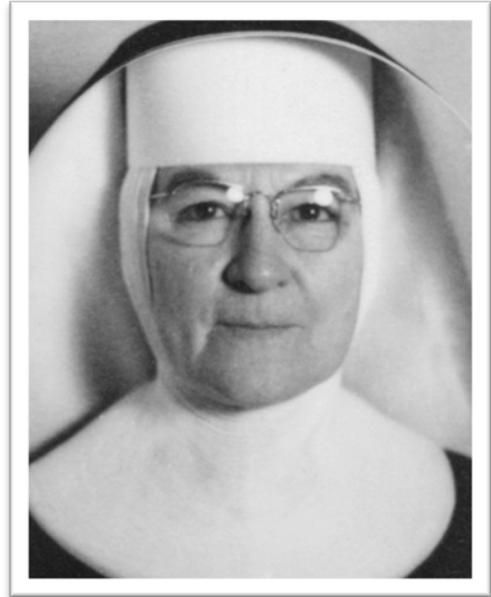
Bertha McCabe was born on Jan. 24, 1881, in Northfield, Minn., to James and Mary (Maloney) McCabe. She was baptized at St. Dominic Church in Northfield.

Bertha entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 8, 1922. She became a novice on March 19, 1923, and received the name Sister Mary Cecilia. She made her first profession of vows on March 25, 1924, and her final profession on Aug. 17, 1927.

Saint Cecilia is the patron saint of music, and Sister Mary Cecilia turned out to be aptly named. She spent her life engaged in music. She taught piano and organ, and she also played the organ for parish liturgies. She directed the sisters in chanting the Divine Office and in singing the parts of the Mass in Gregorian chant. In practice, she used whistling as the chief vocal instrument.

She was organist at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where she also ministered to the residents and cared for the two young daughters of Mary Therese Woods, Betty Ceil and Mary Jo.

Sister Mary Cecilia died on Sept. 26, 1959. She was 78. She is buried in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister M. Ann Juliana McCarthy, OSM

1906–1975

Frances Juanita McCarthy was born on April 20, 1906, in Tomahawk, Wis., to James Lawrence and Mary Margaret (St. Peter) McCarthy. She was baptized at St. Mary's Church in Tomahawk. She had one sister, Beatrice.

Frances Juanita entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 17, 1934, at the age of 28. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1935, and received the name Sister Mary Ann Juliana. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1936, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1939.

She received a bachelor's degree in French from the College of St. Teresa in Winona, Minn., in 1929, and a master's degree in English from Loyola University in Chicago in 1959. Her educational background was enriched by study abroad in Europe, and particularly in France.

Sister Mary Ann Juliana taught at Our Lady of Sorrows High School in Ladysmith for twenty-five years. She became a professor of French and English at Mount Senario College in Ladysmith in the year it was founded, 1962. When she retired from Mount Senario in 1973, the college conferred on her the title Professor Emerita.

Sister Mary Ann Juliana spent her retirement years in volunteer work at Mount Senario College and in visiting the elderly at Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home in Ladysmith.

Toward the end of her life, she suffered from myeloma. She died at Rusk County Memorial Hospital on Jan. 8, 1975. She was 68.

Father Thomas Heskin, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 11, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Agatha McCormick, OSM

1904–1985

Catherine McCormick was born on Aug. 23, 1904, in Milwaukee, Wis., to Timothy and Mary (Corcoran) McCormick. She was baptized on Sept. 14. She had four brothers, Robert, Timothy, Thomas, and John, and three sisters, Mary, Patricia, and Margaret.

Before entering the convent, she worked as a cost accounting clerk.

Catherine entered the Servants of Mary on Feb. 15, 1929, at the age of 24. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1929, and received the name Sister Mary Agatha. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1930, and her final profession on Aug. 17, 1933.

She taught in elementary schools in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. She was a pioneer in the field of catechesis in the 1950s and prepared many people in the Diocese of Superior, both lay and religious, to obtain their certificates and teach religion.

She served as administrator of Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., and in an administrative position in the Servite congregation.

At community meetings, she always had a few words of wisdom to share with her sisters. She is remembered for her Irish wit and the sparkle in her eye. She touched the lives of many people.

Sister Mary Agatha loved gardening. When she retired in 1977, she enjoyed raising and cultivating plants.

Sister Mary Agatha died at Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home in Ladysmith on Aug. 30, 1985. She was 81.

Father Charles Shekleton, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Aug. 31, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Anselm McEvoy, OSM

1897–1960

Elizabeth McEvoy was born on June 29, 1897, in Ireland, to Philip and Mary (Corcoran) McEvoy.

Elizabeth entered the Servants of Mary on Feb. 2, 1926, at the age of 29. She became a novice on Aug. 16, 1926, and received the name Sister Mary Anselm. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1927, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1931.

She became a citizen of the United States on May 14, 1945.

Sister Mary Anselm served as a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith and assisted as seamstress in the convent sewing room.

For many years, she sewed the bridal gowns for the annual investiture ceremony, at which postulants received the Servite habit and began their novitiate.

Sister Mary Anselm died on July 20, 1960. She was 63. She is buried in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Eileen McGing, OSM

1921–2010

Sarah McGing was born on June 5, 1921, in the lovely hillside village of Derreendafderg, County Mayo, Ireland, to Peter McGing and Mary (Duffy) McGing and baptized five days later at Killawalla Church. She had four sisters, Nellie, Mary, Julia, and Bridget, and eight brothers, Anthony, Thomas, Patrick, Michael, Peter, John, James, and William.

At the age of 20, Sarah moved to Chicago to live with an aunt. To support herself, she worked for a family as a maid. In Chicago she met Servite Father Clarence Brissette, OSM, and joined the Servite Third Order (Secular Servites). Father Brissette knew that Sarah wanted to be a sister. One day he introduced her to Mother Mary Alphonse Bradley, OSM, who told her: "I'm going to Ladysmith tomorrow. You can come with me." And she did.

Sarah entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 9, 1942. A year later, on Aug. 14, 1943, she became a novice and received the name Sister Mary Eileen. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1944, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1950.

Her Irish humor surfaced when she recalled her early days in religious life. "I really didn't mind all the silence," she said. "I never kept it."

Sister Eileen's first assignment after profession was to teach at St. Paul School in Weirton, W.Va., where the Irish pastor, Msgr. Daniel P. Murphy, had requested an Irish sister for his school. She also taught in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. She was academic dean at Mount Senario College in Ladysmith for two years.

She served as principal of St. Domitilla School in Hillside, Ill., for 20 consecutive years (1972–1992). In 1993, with semi-retirement in mind, she accepted a position as assistant principal at St. Eulalia School in Maywood, Ill. The following year she was named principal and served for another five years.



Sister Eileen attended grade school and high school in Ireland. She received a bachelor's degree from DePaul University, Chicago, and a master's in administration from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh.

In June 2007, with her health failing, Sister Eileen moved from St. Domitilla Convent to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where she died peacefully on Jan. 15, 2010, of complications associated with Alzheimer's disease. She was 88.

Father Thomas Heskin, OSM, himself a native of Ireland who grew up near Sister Eileen's childhood home, presided at the memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on Jan. 21. Father James Bartelme presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 22, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Thomasine McGinn, OSM 1917–1995

Rosemary McGinn was born on Jan. 1, 1917, in Iron Mountain, Mich., to Thomas Joseph and Margaret (McCann) McGinn. She had two sisters, Ann and Catherine, and two brothers, Thomas and Robert.

Her uncle Father Matthew McCann, OSM, was a chaplain at the Servants of Mary motherhouse and St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith. He is buried in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith.

Rosemary graduated from St. Ann's Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago, Ill., as a registered nurse in February 1938. That same year, on June 19, she entered the convent in Ladysmith. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1939, and received the name Sister Mary Thomasine. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1940, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1946.

In 1956, she completed training as an anesthetist at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth, Minn.

For most of her professional life, Sister Mary Thomasine worked in hospital delivery rooms and nurseries, and helped bring many babies into the world. She was always singing to cheer the patients, for which she was dubbed the "Singing Nun."

She ministered at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith, St. Mary's Memorial Hospital in Kewaunee, Wis., St. James Hospital in Chicago Heights, Ill., and Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. She also served as a private nurse at Saints Cyril and Methodius Nursing Home in Highland Park, Ill.

When she retired, she moved to Addolorata Villa. She was an avid reader of mysteries, a pleasure she had to forego at the end of her life when she lost her sight.

In the fall of 1994, she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, which caused renal failure and necessitated dialysis treatment.



Sister Mary Thomasine died at Holy Family Medical Center in Des Plaines, Ill., on Jan. 2, 1995, the day after her 78th birthday.

"Danny Boy" was sung at her vigil service in memory of her love of music and singing.

Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on Jan. 6. Father Jeremiah Worman presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at St. Wensel's Catholic Church in Neva, Wis., on Jan. 7, with burial in St. Wensel Catholic Cemetery in Neva. ■

Sister Lucille McLaughlin, OSM

1920–1993

LaVada Lucille was born on Jan. 5, 1920, in Glennie, Mich., to George and Pearl (Smith) McLaughlin. She had one brother, William, and three sisters, Rosemary, Clara, and Phoebe.

At the age of 17, LaVada joined the Catholic Church and was baptized at Saint Gregory the Great Parish in Detroit, Mich. Prior to entering the convent, she worked in an office and as a sales clerk.

LaVada credited Father Vosburgh with influencing her to become a Servite sister. She entered the Servants of Mary on June 19, 1941. She became a novice on June 19, 1942, and received the name Sister Mary Gabriel (she later chose to be known by her middle name, Lucille). She made her first profession of vows on June 20, 1943, and her final profession on June 19, 1949.

Sister Lucille earned a bachelor's degree from the College of St. Catherine in Saint Paul, Minn.

She spent nearly 50 years as an educator, teaching in Catholic elementary schools in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. In 1974, she served as registrar at Mount Senario College in Ladysmith, and in the late 1970s she taught religion at Cathedral of Christ the King Parish in Superior, Wis.

Her last years of teaching were spent at St. Domitilla School in Hillside, Ill. When she retired from teaching, she continued to live at St. Domitilla Convent and volunteered in the parish office. In all, she ministered at St. Domitilla's for over 20 years.

Sister Lucille died in Elmhurst Hospital in Elmhurst, Ill., on Nov. 21, 1993. She was 73.

Father Donald Gantley, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at St. Domitilla Church in Hillside, Ill., on Nov. 24. Father Vincent O'Shea, OSM, delivered the homily. Sister Lucille is buried in the family plot in Glennie Cemetery in Glennie, Mich. ■



Sister Mary Patricia McLaughlin, OSM

1885–1965

Agnes McLaughlin was born on Dec. 5, 1885, in Saint Paul, Minn., to Patrick and Mary (Walsh) McLaughlin. She had two sisters, Clare and Mary. Prior to entering the convent, she worked as a secretary for the Northern Pacific Railroad and the Minnesota State Capitol.

Agnes entered the Servants of Mary on Feb. 15, 1926, at the age of 40. She became a novice on Aug. 16, 1926, and received the name Sister Mary Patricia. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1927, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1930.

She served as a receptionist at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith, Wis., and as secretary and treasurer of the Servants of Mary for over 25 years.

Sister Mary Patricia was elected Prioress General of the Servants of Mary in 1955 and served in that position until her death ten years later.

One of her first projects upon taking office was to work with the people of Kewaunee, Wis., to equip and staff the Kewaunee Area Memorial Hospital, which opened in 1959. In gratitude for her work on this project, the hospital staff at Kewaunee commissioned a wooden, life-sized statue of the Sorrowful Mother in her honor. The statue, which was completed after her death, was presented to Mount Senario College in her memory and later transferred to the motherhouse chapel in Ladysmith.

In the fall of 1959, the new Servite High School in Ladysmith opened for classes.

During her term in office, Mother Mary Patricia oversaw a considerable addition to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., and the construction of St. Joseph on the Flambeau Nursing Home in Ladysmith.



On Feb. 11, 1965, Mother Mary Patricia suffered a stroke and died four days later, on Feb. 15, at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith. She was 79.

Her nephew Father Thomas Tierney presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass, which was held in the Servite High School auditorium on Feb. 19. Father James Doyle, OSM, served as deacon, Father Patrick McNamara, OSM, as sub-deacon, and Father Gerard Calkins, OSM, as master of ceremonies. Father Joseph Loftus, OSM, Prior General of the Servite Order, gave the eulogy. Two of Mother Mary Patricia's grandnephews were altar servers.

Approximately 500 mourners attended the funeral. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Barbara McManus, OSM 1903–1966

Mary Margaret McManus was born on Nov. 29, 1903, in Chicago Ill., to Martin and Bridget (Campbell) McManus. She had two brothers, John and Martin, and four sisters, Anne, Sister Rosemary, RSM, Frances, and Josephine.

Mary Margaret first applied for admission to the Sisters of Providence but was not accepted due to a heart ailment. She then turned to the Servite Sisters in Ladysmith, who welcomed her into their community.

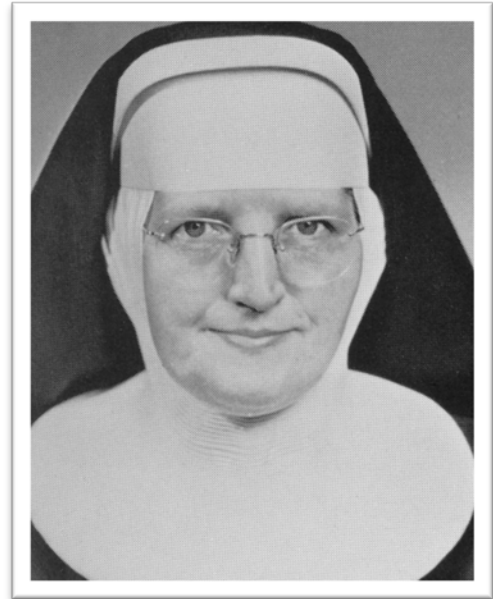
Mary Margaret entered the Servants of Mary on April 26, 1933. She became a novice on Dec. 8, 1933, and received the name Sister Mary Barbara. She made her first profession of vows on Jan. 1, 1935, and her final profession on Jan. 1, 1938.

Sister Mary Barbara taught in elementary schools in Ladysmith, Wis.; Saint Paul, Minn.; Carteret, N.J.; and Chicago, Ill. She also taught mathematics at Our Lady of Sorrows High School and Servite High School in Ladysmith.

She was director of novices and served two terms on the Servants of Mary General Council.

In 1966, she became ill and was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith, where she died on Oct. 9, 1966. She was 62.

Her funeral Mass was celebrated in the motherhouse chapel on Oct. 12, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister M. Michaeleen McNamara, OSM

1903–1996

Anna McNamara was born on July 18, 1903, in Chicago, Ill., to Michael and Mary (Kenny) McNamara. She was baptized on Aug. 2 at Visitation Church in Chicago. She had two sisters, Helen and Marie, and two brothers, James and John.

Prior to entering the convent, Anna worked as a secretary for the vice president of Inland Steel in Chicago. She went to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., for rest and relaxation, and there became acquainted with the Servite Sisters.

Anna entered the Servants of Mary on Dec. 8, 1944, at the age of 41. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1945, and received the name Sister Mary Michaeleen. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1946, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1952.

From 1945 to 1950, she worked in the business office at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith. She spent the next five years working in the business office at Addolorata Villa.

In 1961 she was appointed to a six-year term as secretary-treasurer of the Servants of Mary, followed by four more years as treasurer. Later she taught at St. Domitilla School in Hillside, Ill., and St. Joseph School in Carteret, N.J.

When she retired, she did volunteer work with developmentally disabled adult students at the Rusk County Personality Center in Ingram, Wis. She enjoyed riding the bus to school each day with her students.

Sister Mary Michaeleen suffered a disabling stroke on March 13, 1990. For several summers after her stroke, Sister F. Bonnie Straney, OSM, arranged to go to Ladysmith to spend time with her. Sister Bonnie played music and read to her, and often brought her flowers to brighten her day.



Sister Mary Michaeleen died at Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home in Ladysmith on Jan. 26, 1996. She was 92.

Father Edward Mumper presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 29, 1996, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Michael Meagher, OSM

1895–1941

Teresa Margaret Meagher was born on Nov. 1, 1895, in Chippewa Falls, Wis., to Michael and Mary (Manning) Meagher. She was baptized on Nov. 25. She had one brother, George. She cared for her aging parents on their farm in Chippewa County until she entered the convent.

Theresa entered the Servants of Mary on July 16, 1930, at the age of 34. She became a novice on Feb. 12, 1931, and received the name Sister Mary Michael. She made her first profession of vows on Feb. 13, 1932, and her final profession on Feb. 12, 1935.

She helped out with the housekeeping and gardening at the motherhouse in Ladysmith. At harvest time, she accompanied Sister Mary Bridget Mahoney, OSM, to the Sisters' farm to cook for the workers.

Sister Mary Michael assumed the care of the three Vogel sisters, who were taken in by the congregation after their parents died. She was a mother to them, lovingly giving them special treats after school, such as fresh apple fritters with milk. She taught them to cook and sew. They made ice cream together at the Sisters' farm, and on Sunday afternoons they sometimes made candy.

In 1940 Sister Mary Michael went to work at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. She suffered from terrible headaches that would last a day or more. One day around noon she felt a severe pain in her head. She laid down to rest, but the pain increased. She died the next day, on April 30, 1941, of a cerebral hemorrhage. She was 45.

Father C. Bresette, OSM, presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass in the motherhouse chapel on May 3. Father Francis Wiehl, OSM, Prior of Mater Dolorosa Seminary in Hillside, Ill., delivered the homily. Other priests in attendance were Father B. Maguire, OSM, Father Ludwig Bohle of Winter, Wis., Father Paul Dwyer, OSM, chaplain at the motherhouse, and



Father McGuigan, SSSp, rector of Notre Dame Church in Chippewa Falls, Wis. Sister Mary Michael was buried in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Josephine Minter, OSM 1900–1940

Bernadette Minter was born on Oct. 17, 1900, in Highland, Wis., to Henry and Anna (Jenson) Minter. She had two brothers, Harry and Raymond, and four sisters, Elizabeth and Katherine, and two known only by their married names, Mrs. Thorwald Knudson and Mrs. John Blackmore.

Bernadette attended St. Mary's School in Ladysmith and was in the first eighth-grade graduating class. Commencement ceremonies took place on June 16, 1916.

She entered the Servants of Mary two months later, on Aug. 14, at the age of 15. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1917, and received the name Sister Mary Josephine. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1918, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1922.

When Father A.D. McSwiggan, pastor of St. Paul's Parish in Weirton, W.Va., asked Mother Mary Alphonse Bradley, OSM, for Sisters to staff the new parish school in 1924, Sister Mary Josephine was one of the first five Sisters sent to the faraway steel mill town. The following year, at age 24, she took over as principal of St. Paul's and served in that capacity for nine years. As principal, she developed a reputation of being a force to be reckoned with. One day the local police chief caught a boy playing hooky. "Take me to the police station if you must," cried the lad, "but please don't take me back to Sister Josephine!"

She completed her bachelor's degree in the summer of 1939, and then taught Latin at Our Lady of Sorrows High School in Ladysmith.

She became ill in the spring of the following year and went to Oak Park Hospital in Illinois for an appendectomy. The surgery appeared to go well, and Mother Alphonse went to the hospital to bring her home. Sister Mary Josephine was in full habit, sitting in her room, ready to leave the hospital.



Mother Alphonse stepped out of the room for a moment, and when she returned she took one look at Sister Mary Josephine and exclaimed, "Oh, goodness, she's dying!" Mother Alphonse called for the nurse. Moments later, Sister Mary Josephine was dead. She died of a massive pulmonary embolism on March 14, 1940. She was 39.

Father Boniface Efferenn, OSM, presided at the funeral Mass in the motherhouse chapel on March 19. Father Daniel Murphy, pastor at St. Paul's Parish in Weirton, W.Va., delivered the homily. Other priests in attendance were Father Joseph Gallivan, OSM, and Father George O'Connell, OSM, of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Chicago, and motherhouse chaplain Father Paul Dwyer, OSM. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith.

Sister Mary Josephine was the first woman to enter the congregation after the six founders and the first professed member to die. ■

Sister Mary Angela Moss, OSM

1895–1952

Mary Violet Moss was born on Jan. 2, 1895, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, to John and Mary (Lepine) Moss. She had one brother, Wilfred, and one sister, Laura. Her father left Limerick, Ireland, to work in the Royal Arboretum in Ottawa. Before entering the convent, Mary Violet worked in government offices in Ottawa.

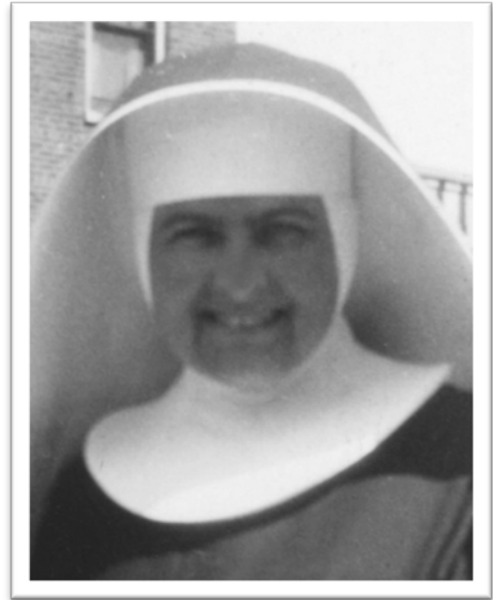
Mary Violet entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 7, 1925. She became a novice on Aug. 16, 1926, and received the name Sister Mary Angela. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1927, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1931.

Sister Mary Angela taught in parochial schools for nearly 25 years, serving in Illinois, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Sister F. Bonnie Straney, OSM, recalled a story from a time when Sister Mary Angela was superior at St. Paul's Convent in Weirton, W.Va. The sisters were going through a particularly difficult time, and Sister Mary Angela enjoined them to pray, saying: "Sisters, let us pray for the success of our troubles."

Sister Bonnie recounted another incident when Sister Mary Angela was superior at St. Domitilla's Convent in Hillside, Ill. One year after Midnight Mass the sisters were celebrating at the convent, the table laden and gifts abounding. On the table was a letter lying unopened from Mother Mary Alphonse Bradley, OSM, which Sister Mary Angela had saved to read at the end of the celebration. Upon opening it, she read aloud: "Dear Sister Mary Angela and Sisters: This note is to let you know that I want no merrymaking after Midnight Mass!" Said Sister Bonnie: "What a glorious forbidden feast we had!"

Sister Mary Angela spent the last five years of her life in Ladysmith. Five months before she died she became ill and was confined to a bed at St.



Mary's Hospital. Sister Mary John VanderLoop, OSM, was on duty as a special nurse.

Sister Mary Angela celebrated her silver jubilee of religious profession on Aug. 15, 1952, and was well enough to be taken to the motherhouse for the liturgy and reception. She died two months later, on Oct. 18, 1952. She was 57.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the motherhouse chapel on Oct. 21, with burial in the convent cemetery. ■

Sister Mary Grace Mulqueen, OSM

1912–1979

Helen Mulqueen was born on June 17, 1912, in Chicago, Ill., to Michael and Mary (O'Donnell) Mulqueen. She was baptized on June 30 by Father Quigley, OSM, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Chicago. She had three sisters, Margaret, Mary, and Grace.

An announcement was made at Our Lady of Sorrows Church asking parents to bring their daughters to pose for the artists who were painting angels on the walls around the main altar. Mrs. Mulqueen sent her daughters to these sittings. If you look up at the cherubic faces above the main altar, you will see the images of Helen Mulqueen and her sisters.

Helen graduated from Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary School and Providence High School in Chicago, and then attended Rosary College in River Forest, Ill. She was a member of the Secular Servite Order.

Helen entered the Servants of Mary on Jan. 1, 1935. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1935, and received the name Sister Mary Grace. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1936, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1939.

Sister Mary Grace taught at Servite High School in Ladysmith and later at Annunciata School in Chicago, Ill. She was principal of St. Therese School in Deephaven, Minn., while teaching fulltime. She taught mathematics at St. Domitilla School in Hillside, Ill., and was librarian at St. Philip the Apostle School in Northfield, Ill.

In 1962, Sister Mary Grace made a pilgrimage to Rome to attend the canonization of Anthony Mary Pucci, OSM, by Pope John XXIII. From Rome, she went to Lisbon and Fatima in Portugal. She prayed at the shrine of St. Therese of Lisieux in Lourdes, France, and visited the home of the Servite Order at Monte Senario on the outskirts of Florence, Italy.



Sister Mary Grace developed a heart condition and had heart surgery at the University Hospital in Minnesota. She died of cancer at Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines, Ill., on Dec. 8, 1979. She was 67.

Father William J. Dorney, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Northfield, Ill., presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at St. Philip's in Northfield on Dec. 11, with Father Louis Courtney, OSM, Father Jerome Hurley, OSM, and Father George O'Connell, OSM, as concelebrants. A funeral Mass was celebrated at the motherhouse chapel on Dec. 13, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Bernadette North, OSM

1903–1988

Helen North was born on Dec. 3, 1903, in Lawrence, Mass., to John and Sarah Cecilia (Cuddy) North. She was baptized on Dec. 7 at St. Lawrence Church. She had eight sisters, Josephine, Mabel, Bessie, Sarah, Annie, Mary, Mary Lotitia, and Catherine. Three of her sisters, Mary, Mary Lotitia, and Catherine, died in infancy.

Helen's life was dedicated to music, elementary education, and clerical work. She received her early education in Massachusetts and studied piano and violin at Rosary College in River Forest, Ill.

Helen entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 10, 1926. She became a novice on Aug. 14, 1927, and received the name Sister Mary Bernadette. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1928, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1931.

Sister Mary Bernadette taught in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. She did office work at St. Mary's Hospital, St. Joseph on the Flambeau Nursing Home, and Mount Senario College in Ladysmith and at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill.

She was called "Bern" by her many friends, and she delighted in the company of her dog Pepper.

In her retirement years, she lived first with the sisters at Holy Family Convent in St. Louis Park, Minn., and then in 1983 moved to the motherhouse in Ladysmith.

Following a stroke that left her paralyzed, she moved Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home in Ladysmith, where she died on March 9, 1988. She was 84.

Father Brian DuBois presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on March 12, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Margaret O'Neill, OSM 1897–1956

Mary Margaret O'Neill was born on Aug. 12, 1897, in Beverly, Mass., to John and Bridget (Tansey) O'Neill. Her mother died when she was four years old. Five years later, her father married Ellen Bradley, a sister of Mother Mary Alphonse Bradley, OSM. Many of the Servite sisters knew Ellen, whom they affectionately called Aunt Nellie, and who spent her last years in Ladysmith at the nursing home.

Mary Margaret attended grammar school in Beverly, Mass., and high school in Salem, Mass. She grew up with a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Mary Margaret entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 8, 1917. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1918, and kept her baptismal name, which was unusual at the time. Sister Mary Margaret made her first profession of vows on Dec. 8, 1919, and her final profession on Dec. 31, 1922.

She was the third postulant to enter the new community, following Elizabeth Corcoran (Sister Mary Juliana, who left in 1918) and Bernadette Minter (Sister Mary Josephine), both of whom entered in 1916.

In 1925, Sister Mary Margaret and three companions went to Hurley, Wis., to teach at St. Mary of the Seven Dolors School. The school operated for only one year.

Sister Mary Margaret taught at St. Mary's School in Ladysmith and at Catholic schools in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, and West Virginia.

She was the first principal of St. Domitilla School in Hillside, Ill., which opened in 1927, and the first principal of St. Rose of Lima School in Roseville, Minn., which opened in 1940.

In 1949, she went to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where she served as superior.

She taught religion in parishes in the Diocese of Superior where there were no Catholic schools.



She served for a time as director of novices. From 1950 to 1955, she served as First Councilor to Mother Mary Rose Smith, OSM.

In April 1954, she was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith, where she remained until her death on Aug. 19, 1956. She was 59.

Father James Doyle, OSM, presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass in the motherhouse chapel on Aug. 22. Sister Mary Margaret's cousin Father Edward O'Neill, OSFS, served as deacon, Father Francis Shea as subdeacon, and Father Anthony Gaydos, OSM, as master of ceremonies. She was buried in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Josephine Peterson, OSM

1920–1998

Josephine Wolowinski Peterson was born on Jan. 31, 1920, in Hurley, Wis., to Roman and Mary (Czech) Wolowinski. She had two brothers, Chester and John, and four sisters, Caroline, Felicia, Mary, and Angeline.

In 1971, Josephine worked as a secretary at Sears in Chicago, Ill. She was married for thirty years and raised two children, Gerald and Jean. She experienced the pain of divorce and the death of her daughter from cancer.

While caring for her aging mother, she discovered a concern for the elderly. She wanted to find a way to serve the elderly more fully as a member of a religious community. She was delighted to discover a religious congregation dedicated to Mary and near her home in Hurley.

Josephine entered the Servants of Mary on Jan. 7, 1972. She became a novice on Aug. 12, 1974. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1975, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1979.

Sister Josephine had many ways of bringing smiles and hope to others. She played the accordion and guitar at the nursing home and spent many Sunday afternoons delighting the residents with her musical renditions.

She did secretarial work at the motherhouse and at Mount Senario College in Ladysmith. Later she provided companionship and care to the elderly in the St. Paul area.

She developed Parkinson's disease, and when she needed additional care she returned to Ladysmith, where she started a Parkinson's support group.

She spent her last years at Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home in Ladysmith, where she continued to enjoy music.

In 1985, Sister Josephine was featured in an article in the Catholic Digest titled "A Grandmother Writes from the Convent." She later used this title



for a 1997 book in which she recounted her life story. She distributed copies of the book to family and friends.

Sister Josephine died on Jan. 5, 1998. She was 77.

Her nephew Father John Stremski presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 7, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Charles Prince, OSM

1918–2007

Catherine Mary Prince was born on Jan. 1, 1918, in the Town of Auburn, Chippewa County, Wis., to Peter Anthony and Nellie Margaret (Frantz) Prince. She had five brothers, Royce, John, Edward, Kenneth, and Keith, and two sisters, Angeline (Sister Mary Peter, OSM) and Rita.

Catherine entered the Servants of Mary on Feb. 20, 1935, just nine days after her cousin Margaret Prince (Sister Mary Roberta, OSM). Her younger sister Angeline followed in August 1936.

Catherine became a novice on Aug. 15, 1935, and received the name Sister Mary Charles. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1936, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1939.

Sister Mary Charles attended Loyola University Chicago, where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1957 and a master of education degree in 1964. She studied French at the University of Laval in Quebec, Canada, in 1961 and 1962 and later at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, where she received a master's in French in 1972.

She taught in elementary schools staffed by the Servants of Mary in Carteret, N.J.; Chicago, Ill., Hillside, Ill., Ladysmith, Wis.; Saint Paul, Minn.; St. Louis Park, Minn.; Washburn, Wis.; and Weirton, W.Va. She was principal of St. Joseph School in Carteret and Holy Family School in St. Louis Park. She served as administrator of Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., from 1951 to 1957, and she taught French in the Pinellas County Schools on Florida's west coast from 1974 to 1984.

Sister Mary Charles spent her retirement years in St. Petersburg, Florida, where she managed several apartments left to her by her longtime friend Jesse Schenk. She once wrote: "Although I have retired, I am happy to still be able to do my part in the church by providing clean, furnished apartments for those who need help and are



financially less able to find happiness and security."

On April 10, 2007, Sister Mary Charles fell in her home in St. Petersburg. She was admitted to St. Anthony's Hospital, where she was diagnosed with compression fractures of the spine. While hospitalized, she developed a staph infection, slipped into a coma, and died on April 24. She was 89.

In keeping with her wishes, funeral services were held in the vicinity of her childhood home. Father James Arthur presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Cooks Valley, Wis., on April 30, followed by burial later that day in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Peter Prince, OSM

1920–2003

Angeline Cecilia Prince was born on Jan. 27, 1920, in Cooks Valley, Wis., to Peter and Nellie (Frantz) Prince. She had two sisters, Catherine (Sister Mary Charles, OSM) and Rita, and five brothers, Royce, John, Edward, Kenneth, and Keith. She attended St. John the Baptist School in Cooks Valley and St. Mary's High School in Ladysmith.

Angeline entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 30, 1936. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1937, and received the name Sister Mary Peter. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1938, and her final profession on Aug. 17, 1944.

Sister Mary Peter earned her bachelor's degree at Viterbo College in La Crosse, Wis. Through the years she received several grants to continue her study of science and mathematics.

She began her teaching career in 1938 at SS. Peter and Paul School in Weyerhaeuser, Wis., and later taught in other parochial schools in California, Illinois, Minnesota, New Mexico, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

From 1974 to 1991, she worked at Mount Senario College in Ladysmith, teaching courses in basic skills and tutoring students in need of assistance.

In 1991, she retired at the motherhouse in Ladysmith, where she did research for her family tree. She also spent hours sorting and cataloging stamps for her collection.

When her health began to fail, she moved to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. She was known for her special care and attention to another resident, whom she consoled in times of distress.

Sister Mary Peter died at Addolorata Villa on Oct. 13, 2003. She was 83. Her cousin Sister Mary Roberta Prince, OSM, and other Servite sisters were at her side during her final hours.



Father Augustine Kulbis, OSM, presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on Oct. 16. Father Ryan G. Erickson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Oct. 17, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Roberta Prince, OSM

1917–2010

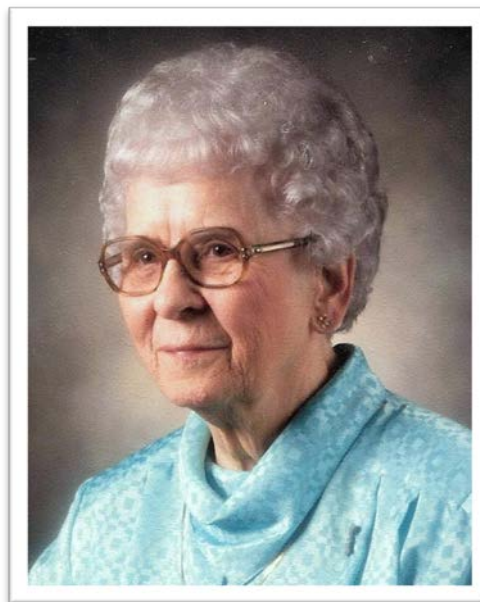
Margaret Dorothy Prince was born on Sept. 7, 1917, in Cooks Valley, Wis., to Michael and Maude (Bergeron) Prince. She had four brothers, James, Frank, Robert, and David, and two sisters, Bernice and Annabelle.

Margaret was taught by School Sisters of Notre Dame in grade school and high school. After high school she considered entering the Notre Dames, but her pastor, Father Norman Thomas, encouraged her to look into the Ladysmith Servites.

Margaret entered the Servants of Mary in Ladysmith on Feb. 12, 1935. Nine days later, her cousin Catherine Prince (Sister Mary Charles, OSM) joined her, followed a year and a half later by Catherine's younger sister Angeline (Sister Mary Peter, OSM). Margaret became a novice on Aug. 15, 1935, and received the name Sister Mary Roberta. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1936, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1939.

She studied at Rosary College in River Forest, Ill., and completed her bachelor's degree at DePaul University, Chicago, where she majored in French and history. She later earned a master's in educational administration from Loyola University Chicago. She studied French at the University of Laval in Quebec, Canada, and at the Sorbonne in Paris, France.

Beginning in 1937, Sister Roberta taught for 23 years in elementary schools in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin and served as principal for 10 of those years. In 1960, she was appointed principal of the all-girls Servite High School in Ladysmith, where she also taught Latin and French. When the school closed in 1967, she accepted a position at the all-boys Servite High School in Anaheim, Calif., where she taught French for four years.



She was a member of the Servants of Mary Leadership Team from 1971 to 1980. She served as administrator of Addolorata Villa, Wheeling, Ill., from 1981 to 1990, the last Servite sister to serve in that capacity. During her tenure as Villa administrator, she oversaw the expansion of the campus from a 94-bed nursing home to a 300-unit continuing care retirement community.

She retired in 1990, and in 2001 she moved into an apartment at the Villa with Sister Patricia Ann Ferguson, OSM. Sister Mary Roberta died peacefully at the Villa on Holy Thursday, April 1, 2010. She was 92.

Villa chaplain Father Nick Husain, assisted by Father Augustine Kulbis, OSM, presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on April 6. He also presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on April 7, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Juliana Pritzl, OSM

1901–1980

Agnes Pritzl was born on Jan. 21, 1901, in Hollandtown, Wis., to Wolfgang and Barbara (Meidl) Pritzl. Her father was from Bavaria. She had one brother, Peter (a Norbertine priest), and one sister, Cecilia.

Agnes entered the Servants of Mary on April 29, 1924. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1925, and received the name Sister Mary Juliana. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1926, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1929.

Sister Mary Juliana was the chief cook and dietary supervisor at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith, and later at St. Mary's Memorial Hospital in Kewaunee, Wis.

She often gave meals to those in need who were passing through. She gave each a generous meal and some extra for the journey.

Sister Mary Juliana would knit and crochet while the soup was cooking or the bread was rising. She gave the items she made to the poor.

She was an avid reader and loved to discuss articles on current issues. She also enjoyed gardening and supplied much of the food served at St. Mary's Hospital. She liked country music and could often be heard humming as she worked.

Sister Mary Juliana spent her last years in retirement at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. She said that she wanted to die while still working. On March 12, 1980, she went to her room to rest. Some time later the sisters found her dead, wearing her apron. She was 79.

Father Thomas Kelly, SJ, presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on March 13. Her brother Father Peter Pritzl, O.Praem, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on March 15, 1980, with Father Charles Shekleton, OSM, and Father John P. Slowey concelebrating. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Amadeus Reilly, OSM

1888–1947

Anna Frances Reilly was born on Jan. 28, 1888, in Chicago, Ill., to Joseph Patrick and Mary Ann (Byrne) Reilly and baptized on April 29. She had three brothers, Martin, James, and Joseph.

Anna was one of several women who were led to religious life through the influence of Father Boniface Efferenn, OSM. She entered the Servants of Mary on Feb. 22, 1923, at the age of 35. She became a novice on Sept. 17, 1923, and received the name Sister Mary Amadeus. She made her first profession of vows on Sept. 21, 1924, and her final profession on Oct. 10, 1927.

Sister Mary Amadeus was trained as a nurse at St. Mary's School of Nursing in Ladysmith.

She entrusted her generous patrimony to the congregation when she entered. The money was invested in interest bearing securities during her lifetime and applied to the needs of the congregation after her death. This gift considerably lessened the financial stress of the Servite community in its early days.

Sister Mary Amadeus wore a back brace, but was not a person to complain. In her last illness, when asked if she had pain, she said, "How can I complain when I remember all the patients we have had to put on operating carts because we had no beds for them in our St. Mary's Hospital?"

Sister Mary Amadeus died on Feb. 4, 1947. She was 59.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the motherhouse chapel on Feb. 7, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Philip Riede, OSM

1893–1964

Agnes Josephine Riede was born on Sept. 8, 1893, to Herman and August (Schwab) Riede. She had one sister, Ann.

Agnes came from Saint Paul, Minn., to work as a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith. At first she considered Ladysmith too primitive, and she planned to return to Saint Paul, where she had received her nurse's training. She was asked, however, to try it out for a while. She did and decided to stay.

Agnes entered the Servants of Mary on Oct. 1, 1920, at the age of 27. She became a novice on March 27, 1921, and received the name Sister Mary Philip. She made her first profession of vows on April 1, 1922, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1925.

Sister Mary Philip served for several years as administrator of St. Mary's Hospital. She oversaw the construction of an addition to the hospital in 1948, which increased the number of beds from 25 to 75.

She was a dedicated nurse. She went from caring for patients to administering anesthesia to long hours in the laundry. She was always very concerned about the welfare of the sisters who worked at the hospital.

Sister Mary Philip served on the General Council of the Servants of Mary from 1946 to 1961. She was administrator at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., from 1957 to 1964.

She developed cancer and had major surgery on March 25, 1964. She asked Father John Grant for his blessing before she left for the hospital. She died at Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines, Ill., on April 10, 1964. She was 70.

Father Boniface Efferenn, OSM, presided at a memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on April 11, 1964, assisted by Father Philip Weller and Servite



friars James Doyle, OSM, Joseph Madden, OSM, and Mark Santo, OSM.

Father Gerard Calkins, OSM, presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass in the motherhouse chapel on April 14. He was assisted by Father James Doyle, OSM, and Father Alex Anton, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Ladysmith. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Andrew Rinzel, OSM

1902–1984

Agnes Magdalen Rinzel was born on Aug. 14, 1902, in Auburn, Wis., to Peter and Mary (Rauen) Rinzel. She was baptized at St. Mathias Church in Auburn a few weeks later. She had four brothers, Alphonse, Anthony, Mathias, and Edmund, and five sisters, Martha, Leona, Cecilia, Olive, and Susan.

Agnes grew up near the Servite Friars' novitiate in Granville, Wis., where her Aunt Margaret cooked and cleaned for the friars. Here she learned of the Ladysmith congregation of Servite Sisters.

Agnes entered the Servants of Mary on Oct. 29, 1921. She became a novice on June 19, 1922, and received the name Sister Mary Andrew, in honor of Father Andrew Van Holder, OSM, who influenced her vocation. She made her first profession of vows on June 20, 1923, and her final profession on Aug. 16, 1926.

Sister Mary Andrew graduated from St. Mary's School of Nursing in Ladysmith in 1925. Later, she taught student nurses.

During her 61 years as a Servite sister, she served in many positions in the field of healthcare. She spent 42 years at St. Mary's Hospital and St. Joseph on the Flambeau Nursing Home in Ladysmith. She served first as supervisor of the operating room, then in the pharmacy, and later in the emergency room.

She was administrator of the hospital from 1957 to 1964. She oversaw many improvements in the hospital, including a new telephone system, a new cafeteria, and piped oxygen.

In 1964 she went to work at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. She was a faithful religious, an efficient nurse, and a hard worker. She often spent 15 hours a day on duty. Her one desire was to serve the sick and the elderly.



Near the end of her life she was almost blind. Although she had corneal transplants in both eyes she could only read by holding a book close to her face.

She died peacefully at Addolorata Villa on July 23, 1984. She was 81.

Father Charles Shekelton, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on July 25. He was assisted by Sister Mary Andrew's nephew Father David Matenaer, OFM. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Ignatius Romero, OSM

1906–1974

Mary Emma Romero was born on Nov. 20, 1906, in Belen, New Mexico, to Daniel and Nicolasa (Castillo) Romero. She was baptized a week later at the Church of Our Lady of Belen, which was staffed by the Servite Fathers. She had one brother, Louis, and one sister.

Emma entered the Servants of Mary on June 15, 1928. Several months later two other women from Belen, Philomena Castillo (Sister Mary Dorothy, OSM) and Beatrice Castillo (Sister Beatrice Mary, OSM), followed in her footsteps.

Emma became a novice on Aug. 15, 1929, and received the name Sister Mary Ignatius. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1931, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1934.

Sister Mary Ignatius was a skilled seamstress. She worked in the sewing room for 46 years making sisters' habits. In the 1960s, she helped design a modified habit, in response to changes occurring in the church. She herself, however, had a difficult time accepting the changes of Vatican II.

When others thought she ought to slow down a bit, she said, "I have a vow of poverty so I must earn my keep. Poor people work a full day."

Sister Mary Ignatius spent many years at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., caring for the sick and elderly. Her smile and gentle voice were always welcome. She also assisted in the sacristy and chapel.

In 1974, Sister Mary Ignatius was diagnosed with cancer and suffered greatly. On one of her last days, she said, "We all must go sometime, so I might as well go now. God's will be done."



She died at Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines, Ill., on July 31, 1974, the feast of her patron, St. Ignatius. She was 67

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the motherhouse chapel on Aug. 3, with burial in the convent cemetery in Lady-smith. ■

Leona Evangeline Ross

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

1904–1929

Leona Evangeline Ross was born on Dec. 31, 1904, in Detroit, Mich., to Christian and Wilma (Aubry) Ross. She had three brothers. She was baptized at St. Joachim Parish in Detroit and graduated from Detroit Northeastern High School.

She entered the Servants of Mary on June 19, 1928, at the age of 23.

In the spring of 1929, while she was still a postulant, she developed spinal meningitis and was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith. Her parents came to be with her during her final days. While in the hospital, she was received into the Servite Third Order (Secular Servites).

She died at St. Mary's Hospital on March 23, 1929. She was 24.

Father Matthew McCann, OSM, presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass at St. Mary's Church in Ladysmith on March 25. At her funeral, Father McCann spoke of Leona's life as being so short in years but so filled with the desire to give her life to God.

At the time of her death the convent cemetery had not yet been developed. Leona was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Ladysmith. Before her death, she had asked to be buried in the convent cemetery. Her body was moved there on May 20, 1935. ■

Sister Mary Samz, OSM 1903–1988

Mary Amanda Samz was born on June 26, 1903, in Argonne, Wis., to John and Mary (Masbaum) Samz. She had three sisters, Anna (Sister Mary Bernard, OSM), Lucy (Sister Mary Fidelis, OSM), and Florence, and three brothers, Lawrence, John, and Alloys.

Mary Amanda entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 15, 1929, at the age of 26. Her sisters Anna and Lucy entered a year later. Mary Amanda became a novice on Aug. 15, 1930, and received the name Sister Mary Assumpta (later she returned to her baptismal name, Mary). She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1931, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1934.

Sister Mary graduated from St. Mary's School of Nursing in Ladysmith in 1933. She ministered as a member of the nursing staff at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith for 42 years.

In the late 1950s, she spent two years as a teacher in elementary schools in Thorp and Washburn, Wis. She returned to hospital ministry first in Ladysmith, and then in Kewaunee, Wis.

In 1968, she retired to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill.

Sister Mary had a special interest in needlework. She loved nature and enjoyed its beauty. She was an avid reader and had a special interest in poetry. She had a great concern about social problems.

Her two sisters, Sister Mary Bernard and Sister Mary Fidelis, also lived at the Villa during their retirement years. When Sister Mary became ill, they were solicitous about her care.

Sister Mary died of a heart attack and pneumonia at Addolorata Villa on March 21, 1988. She was 84.



Father Brian DuBois presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel in Ladysmith on March 26, with burial in the convent cemetery. Twelve nurses who worked with Sister Mary at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith formed an honor guard at her funeral. ■

Sister Mary Bernard Samz, OSM

1904–2004

Anna Samz was born on Nov. 27, 1904, in Argonne, Wis., to John and Mary (Masbaum) Samz. She had three sisters, Mary Amanda (Sister Mary, OSM), Lucy (Sister Mary Fidelis, OSM) and Florence, and three brothers, Lawrence, John, and Alloys.

She grew up on a farm and helped with maintenance of the household after her father's death when she was about 18.

She became acquainted with the Servite Sisters in Ladysmith when her older sister Mary entered the community in 1929.

Anna entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 15, 1930, at the age of 25. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1931, and received the name Sister Mary Bernard. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1932, together with her sister Lucy. They made their final profession on Aug. 15, 1935.

Sisters Mary Bernard and her two sisters in the congregation remained close and supportive of one another, even though they ministered and lived apart until their retirement.

Sister Mary Bernard used her skills in house-keeping and cooking at the motherhouse in Ladysmith and for the sisters at St. Joseph's Convent in Carteret, N.J., and St. Bernard's Convent in Thorp, Wis.

In her years as head cook at the motherhouse, she provided guidance and mentoring for many young sisters who had no prior cooking experience. She is remembered for her fun-loving spirit and quick wit. She responded to tough situations with humor and found solutions that rescued the situation for the good of all.

In her later years at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., she prepared special meals for residents with dietary restrictions. She also worked in the laundry, prayed with the dying, and used her skills in needlework to create a variety of handiworks.



The final years were not easy for Sister Mary Bernard. She became anxious and often asked God to take her home. Her faith remained her strength, and visits to chapel brought her calm and rest.

She died quietly in her sleep at Addolorata Villa in her 100th year of life on Jan. 2, 2004.

Father Richard Ehrens presided at a memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on Jan. 5. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 6, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Fidelis Samz, OSM

1906–2000

Lucy Samz was born on Oct. 3, 1906, in Argonne, Wis., to John and Mary (Masbaum) Samz. She had three brothers, Lawrence, John, and Alloys, and three sisters, Mary Amanda (Sister Mary, OSM), Anna (Sister Mary Bernard, OSM), and Florence. As a child, Lucy developed a deep devotion to Mary.

Lucy entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 30, 1930. Two of her sisters were already members of the community. Mary Amanda had entered the year before, and Anna preceded Lucy to the convent by a couple weeks. Throughout their lives in community, the three Samz sisters were devoted to each other, always loving, caring, and concerned for each other.

Lucy became a novice on Aug. 15, 1931, and received the name Sister Mary Fidelis. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1932, together with her sister Anna. They made their final profession on Aug. 15, 1935.

Sister Mary Fidelis was already a teacher when she entered the community. She held a teaching certificate from a teachers' training college and taught in a small school in Eagle River, Wis., from 1926 until she joined the community. As a postulant she was assigned to teach at St. Mary's School in Ladysmith. She later earned a bachelor's degree at Viterbo College in La Crosse, Wis.

Sister Mary Fidelis was a teacher and principal at elementary schools in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. Her ministry of teaching the young was the joy of her life. She was full of fun, good natured, and known for her hearty laugh.

Her life of service did not stop when she retired from the classroom in 1976. She moved to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where she worked as sacristan and as chauffeur for the sisters and residents. Later she joined her sister, Sister Mary



Bernard, in assisting residents who needed help at meal times.

Her last years were spent at Addolorata Villa, where she lived in a room adjoining Sister Mary Bernard's.

Sister Mary Fidelis died on Aug. 7, 2000, at the Villa, with Sister Mary Bernard and other Servite sisters praying at her bedside. She was 93.

Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on Aug. 11. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at the motherhouse chapel on Aug. 14, with burial in the convent cemetery. ■

Sister Mary Malachy Sandbote, OSM

1908–1949

Mary Johanna Kassmeier was born on Feb. 5, 1908, in Fort Madison, Iowa, to Valentine and Cecilia (Stoll) Kassmeier and was baptized at Sacred Heart Church in Fort Madison.

Mary's father died when she was five years old. Her mother supported the family by washing dishes in a restaurant for a dollar a day. Three years after her father's death, Mary's mother married a sailor named John Sandbote. Mary had four sisters, Magdalene, Cecilia, Catherine, and Elizabeth, and three brothers, John, Joseph, and Louis. The family eventually moved to Sheldon, Wis.

Prior to entering the convent, Mary worked on her uncle's farm. She also cooked and cleaned for the Servite Friars at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Ladysmith.

Mary entered the Servants of Mary on Feb. 12, 1938. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1938, and received the name Sister Mary Malachy. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1939, and her final profession on Jan. 15, 1945.

Sister Mary Malachy worked as a nurse's aide at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith. She was very attentive to the patients and their families. She would stop, listen, and offer comfort to them. She also prayed with them and for them.

She assisted the community by sewing, cooking, and doing carpentry work. She upholstered furniture for the hospital waiting room. She also built a large play house for her nieces and nephews, which they enjoyed for many years.

Sister Mary Malachy was diagnosed with cancer and suffered greatly. One day she said, "Heaven must be worth a lot, if it is worth all this suffering."

Sister Mary Malachy died at the motherhouse in Ladysmith on June 13, 1949. She was 41.



Father Philip Kuczek, OSM, presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass in the motherhouse chapel on June 15. Assisting him were Father Joseph Grabrian, OSM, as deacon, and Father Maurice Gillespie, OSM, as subdeacon. Other priests in attendance were Father Joseph Gleisner of Ladysmith, Father Henry Gozanski of Weyerhaeuser, and Father Russell Tremblay, OMI, of Cornell. Sister Mary Malachy was buried in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Dolores Schiller, OSM

1897–1974

Gertrude Schiller was born on Dec. 17, 1896, to Theophile and Louise (Forcier) Schiller. She was baptized at St. Ann's Church in Linwood, Mich., on Jan. 9, 1897. She had one sister, Emma. Prior to entering the convent, Gertrude lived in South Lawrence, Mass.

Gertrude entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 19, 1921, at the age of 24. She became a novice on June 19, 1922, and received the name Sister Mary Dolores. She made her first profession of vows on June 20, 1923, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1926.

Sister Mary Dolores attended a two-year primary course at Central Wisconsin State Normal School. She taught at Our Lady of Sorrows in Ladysmith, St. Bernard's in Thorp, Wis., St. Domitilla's in Hillside, Ill., and St. Paul's in Weirton, W.Va.

In 1934, she became ill and was admitted to a psychiatric hospital for treatment. She then worked at the motherhouse in Ladysmith, where she made altar breads and helped with the sewing. She moved to Mercy Villa in Aurora, Ill., and later returned to the motherhouse in 1966. She was a resident at St. Joseph on the Flambeau Nursing Home in Ladysmith for five years, and in February 1971 she moved to Clark County Hospital and Home in Owen, Wis.

Sister Mary Dolores died on Aug. 19, 1974. She was 77.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the motherhouse chapel on Aug. 21, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Robert Semerau, OSM

1924–2011

Mary Frances Semerau was born on Aug. 4, 1924, in Chicago, Ill., to John and Kathleen Semerau. She had three brothers, Emmanuel, John Jr., and Francis, and three sisters, Veronica, Bernadette, and Kathleen.

She was baptized at St. Gregory Church in Chicago and attended the parish grade school and high school. In high school she was captain of the girls' basketball team and played first saxophone in the band.

She credited Servite Father James Keane, OSM, with planting the seed of her vocation and directing her to Mother Mary Alphonse and the Servite Sisters in Ladysmith. Writing about her vocation, she said: "I was always faithful to prayer, especially to Our Lady of Sorrows, and Our Lady took care of me. She sent me to the Servites, and I have been grateful ever since."

Mary Frances entered the Servants of Mary on Dec. 8, 1947. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1948, and received the name Sister Mary Robert. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1949, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1955.

She earned a bachelor's degree from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn., and a master's from DePaul University in Chicago. She also studied at the Graduate Theological Institute at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis.

Sister Mary Robert taught junior high school in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. She was vice-principal and teacher at St. Philip the Apostle in Northfield, Ill., and principal and teacher at Our Lady of Sorrows in Ladysmith.

She was a certified Eucharistic Minister and Minister of Care in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Sister Mary Robert was an avid roller skater, using school gyms as her skating venue when she could not go outside. After moving to Addolorata



Villa in Wheeling, Ill., in 1987, she skated in the basement halls and large meeting room.

At Addolorata Villa she worked as an accountant in the finance office until her retirement in 2003 and then spent her retirement years at the Villa.

Sister Mary Robert died peacefully at Addolorata Villa on Feb. 19, 2011. She was 86.

Father Nick Husain presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at Addolorata Villa on Feb. 23, with interment at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Hillside, Ill. ■

Sister Mary Consilia Sheridan, OSM

1901–1989

Marian Marcella Sheridan was born on June 30, 1901, in Malta, Ill., to Michael and Mary Agnes (McCann) Sheridan. She had one sister, Ann, and one brother, Ray.

Marian entered the Servants of Mary on Feb. 6, 1932, at the age of 30. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1932, and received the name Sister Mary Consilia. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1933, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1936.

Sister Mary Consilia worked as a nurse for 24 years in the surgery department at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith. She did all the preparation of supplies for surgery. For the next 18 years, she worked in the office at St. Mary's Hospital. She spent a total of 42 years in hospital ministry.

During her retirement years, her knees were so bad that she was required first to use a walker and later a wheelchair. Even in this condition, she found ways to be of service to others by folding bandages and through supportive prayer. When she became unable to visit the convent cemetery, she sat at the end of the second floor hall in the motherhouse and looked out at the cemetery as she prayed her rosary.

She sorted the mail at the motherhouse until her sight became too poor for the task. At her death she donated her eyes to the University Hospital in Madison, Wis., with the hope that some day causes and cures for eye disease might be discovered.

Sister Mary Consilia died on Nov. 3, 1989, at Rusk County Memorial Hospital in Ladysmith. She was 88.

Father Thomas Heskin, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Nov. 5, assisted by Father Edward Mumper, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Ursula Sinde, OSM

1919–2008

Marie Margaret Scott was born on Feb. 11, 1919, in Chicago, Ill., to Claude and Josephine (De Pear) Scott. The Scotts had five children, Marie and a twin sister who died at birth, a third girl, Josephine, and two boys, William and John. The Scotts divorced, and Marie's mother Josephine married John Sinde, who adopted the four children and with Josephine had two more boys, Mathew and Richard.

Marie attended Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary School in Chicago and three years at Providence High School in Joliet, Ill. She completed her secondary education at John Marshall High School in Chicago, and then did office work for two years.

From the time she was ten, Marie knew she wanted to be a sister. She became acquainted with the Servite Friars at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Chicago, where she was a parishioner and a member of the Servite Third Order (Secular Servites).

She met Mother Mary Alphonse Bradley, OSM, in July 1942, and a month later, on Aug. 14, 1942, she entered the convent in Ladysmith. She became a novice on Aug. 14, 1943, and received the name Sister Mary Ursula (she later shortened it to Sister Ursula). She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1944, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1950.

Sister Ursula attended Rusk County Normal School and later received a bachelor's degree with a major in education from Mount Senario College in Ladysmith.

Her teaching career spanned 48 years, from 1943 to 1991, mainly in kindergarten and first and second grade. She taught in elementary schools staffed by the Servants of Mary in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. She spent her last 21 years of teaching at St. Domitilla School in Hillside, Ill.



When Sister Ursula retired from teaching in 1991, she continued to live at St. Domitilla Convent and involved herself in volunteer ministry at the parish, working with special education children and serving as sacristan.

In 2002 Sister Ursula moved to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. When her friend Father Chris Krymski, OSM, asked her to help with the St. Peregrine Ministry by writing to children with cancer, she jumped at the chance. "I love what I am doing," she said. "The power of prayer is a great part of my life."

Sister Ursula died at Addolorata Villa on Aug. 23, 2008. She was 89. Father Chris Krymski, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at the Villa on Aug. 28, followed by burial in the family plot in Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, Ill. ■

Sister M. James Frances Smith, OSM

1901–1944

Nora Smith was born on Jan. 20, 1901, in Chicago, Ill., to Patrick and Mary (Fleming) Smith. She had two sisters, Ellen and Marcella, and one brother, John. Before entering the congregation, she did general office work in Chicago.

Nora entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 15, 1938, at the age of 37. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1939, and received the name Sister Mary James Francis. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1940.

Sister Mary James Francis did housekeeping and served meals to the motherhouse chaplain. She was with the Ladysmith community only a few years, but she touched many lives deeply in that short time. She wrote on her entrance form that her reason for coming to religious life was “to come closer to Our Lord and His Sorrowful Mother.”

She was cheerful, dedicated, and generous, and she always kept very busy, as if somehow aware that her time was short.

Sister Mary James Frances suffered from severe headaches. As they increased in intensity, she made plans to go to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., to see a specialist.

Before beginning her journey, she asked to see the convent chaplain, Father Paul Dwyer, OSM. After receiving the sacrament of Penance, she asked him to pray for her. She died before leaving the convent, dressed in full habit, on Feb. 24, 1944. She was 43.

Father Philip Kuczek, OSM, presided at the Solemn Requiem Mass in the motherhouse chapel on Feb. 28, 1944, with Father Jerome Mee, OSM, serving as deacon, Father A. M. Riesenmy, OSM, as subdeacon, and Father Charles Feeney, OSM, as master of ceremonies. Father Paul Dwyer, OSM, delivered the homily. Other priests in attendance were Father Henry Gozanski of Weyerhaeuser and



Father K. Deis, OMI, of Cornell. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Rose Smith, OSM 1879–1955

Delia Bridget Smith, one of the founders of the Ladysmith Servite Sisters, was born on Dec. 11, 1879, in Castle Grove, Iowa, to Ambrose Smith and Mary (Dolan) Smith. She was baptized in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Castle Grove. Her family called her Della. She had two brothers, Thomas and Joseph Charles, and one sister, Rosella.

Delia was only two years old when ill health forced her mother to allow the grandparents to take the toddler home with them. Delia visited her family home often and spent many happy hours with her brothers and sister.

Delia entered the congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in La Grange, Ill., on Nov. 29, 1902, at the age of 22. She chose the name Sister Mary Rose in honor of her sister Rosella. At La Grange she taught English at Nazareth Academy, a boarding school for girls operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

In 1912, Sister Mary Rose and several other sisters from La Grange accepted the invitation of the Servite Friars to go to Ladysmith to staff the new parish school and to establish an American foundation of Servite Sisters. Sister Mary Rose and Sister Mary Irene Drummond, both from Iowa, were the first to leave the La Grange community. They left on July 16, 1912, and arrived in Ladysmith on Sept. 22, 1912, three days after Sister Mary Alphonse Bradley and her two companions.

Together with the other five founders of the Servite community in Ladysmith, Sister Mary Rose was invested in the Servite habit on Feb. 12, 1914. She made her first profession of vows on July 24, 1915, and her final profession on Dec. 8, 1919.

Sister Mary Rose taught at both the elementary and secondary level. She taught English at St. Mary's High School in Ladysmith until the fall of



1924, when she led the first group of Servite sisters to West Virginia to staff St. Paul's School in Weirton.

She served for many years as director of novices and later as director of the junior professed sisters and superior at the motherhouse.

Sister Mary Rose displayed her gifts for leadership as a General Councilor (1919–1950) and, following the death of Mother Mary Alphonse Bradley, OSM, as the second Prioress General (1950–1955) of the Servants of Mary.

She died at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith on Jan. 25, 1955. She was 75.

Father Boniface Efferenn, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 29. Father James Doyle, OSM, delivered the homily. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Gerard St. Louis, OSM

1920–1978

Marguerite St. Louis was born on March 17, 1920, in Barron, Wis., to John Gilbert and Mary Rosella (Henrichsmeier) St. Louis. She had two brothers, George and Lyle, and six sisters, Marie, Theresia, Rose, Meyrle, Pearl, and Cecilia. Her family lived in Cameron, Wis.

Marguerite became acquainted with the Servite community when sisters came to her parish to teach religion. She entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 1, 1934. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1935, and received the name Sister Mary Gerard. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1937, and her final profession on Aug. 14, 1943.

Sister Mary Gerard earned a bachelor's degree from Mount Senario College in Ladysmith. She taught in elementary schools in Illinois, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

In 1960, she moved to Ladysmith to assist with housekeeping at the motherhouse and to help Sister Mary Louise Lawinger, OSM, in caring for Father James Keane, OSM, at St. Joseph on the Flambeau Nursing Home.

While in Ladysmith, Sister Mary Gerard was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor and suffered greatly. She went to Minneapolis, Minn., for surgery and treatment. Upon her return to Ladysmith, she moved to Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home, where she died on Aug. 23, 1978. She was 58.

Father John O'Malley, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the Motherhouse chapel on Aug. 26, with Father Gerard Calkins, OSM, Father Thomas Heskin, OSM, and Father John Slowey concelebrating. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Katherine Stoffel, OSM

1910–1998

Catherine Agnes Stoffel was born on May 1, 1910, in Cooks Valley, Wis., to Peter and Theresa (Harings) Stoffel. She had two brothers, Bernard and Theodore, and four sisters, Margaret, Adelaide, Mathilda, and Christine. Catherine attended St. John the Baptist School in Cooks Valley and Notre Dame High School in Chippewa Falls, Wis.

Catherine entered the Servants of Mary on Feb. 2, 1930. At the time of her entrance, she wrote: “I became acquainted with the Servite Order and I liked the spirit. I was devoted to Our Lady, so I was sure I wanted to belong to an order dedicated to Mary.”

She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1930, and received the name Sister Mary Theodore (she later returned to her baptismal name, spelling Katherine with a K instead of a C). She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1931, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1934.

Sister Mary Katherine began teaching in 1934 at St. Bernard’s School in Thorp, Wis. She taught and served as principal in elementary schools in Illinois, Minnesota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. She also served the congregation as director of aspirants, high school students preparing to be sisters.

Sister Mary Katherine loved to tell a joke and enjoyed hearing one, as well. One of her favorite stories was of a valentine she received from a young student, who wrote: “Of all my teachers, you’re the beast.”

After 46 years of teaching, Sister Mary Katherine retired to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., in 1979, where she volunteered as receptionist. She enjoyed working on crafts, reading, and doing puzzles of any kind.



Sister Mary Katherine died at Addolorata Villa on Aug. 26, 1998. She was 88.

Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on Aug. 29. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Aug. 31, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister F. Bonnie Straney, OSM

1920–2000

Flavian Bonnie Straney was born on Feb. 7, 1920, in Buffalo, N.Y., to Charles and Marguerite (MacNamara) Straney. She had five brothers, Joseph, James, Charles, Lawrence, and Paul, and three sisters, Abigail, Rosarii, and Therese. After her birth, her family moved to Weirton, W.Va., where she attended St. Paul's School, which was staffed by the Servants of Mary. Her family called her Bonnie.

Following her eighth-grade graduation in 1933, she entered the Servite Sisters' aspirancy in Ladysmith and attended St. Mary's High School.

Bonnie entered the Servants of Mary as a postulant on Sept. 2, 1935. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1936, and received the name Sister Mary Rosarii (she later returned to the name Bonnie). She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1937, and her final profession on Aug. 14, 1943.

Sister Bonnie earned a bachelor's degree from DePaul University in Chicago and a master's from Marquette University in Milwaukee. She taught at Catholic elementary schools in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Wisconsin. In 1961, she began teaching in the Gary Public School System in Indiana, where she worked until she retired in June 1989. While in Gary, she also taught public speaking as an adjunct professor at Indiana University Northwest.

Sister Bonnie's goal in teaching disadvantaged children was to raise their self-esteem and challenge them to reach their full potential.

She had a special love for reading, drama, and music. She considered the years of involvement in the religious education program at Holy Angels Cathedral Parish in Gary, Ind., as one of the most rewarding activities of her 60 years of teaching.

In her later years, Sister Bonnie suffered from heart failure and myeloblastosis syndrome. For several years she lived at St. Anthony Assisted



Living Apartments in Crown Point, Ind. She moved to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., about a year before her death.

Sister Bonnie died on April 14, 2000, at Glenbrook Hospital in Glenview, Ill. She was 80.

Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on April 17. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the Motherhouse chapel on April 18, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Cyril Tirpak, OSM

1914–2004

Mary Therese Tirpak was born in Sol, Slovakia, on Jan. 14, 1919, to John and Anna (Kandala) Tirpak. She had two brothers and three sisters. Both brothers died in infancy before Mary was born, and one sister died as a child when Mary was three. Her other two sisters, Anne and Helen, were born after the family moved to America.

Mary's father immigrated to the United States in 1922 and got a job in a Pennsylvania coal mine. Mary and her mother came to America the following year. In 1925 the family moved to a farm in Donald, Wis.

Mary attended religion classes in the neighboring town of Gilman, Wis., where she first met the Ladysmith Servite Sisters. She entered the convent in 1942, but she was so homesick that she left within a month.

The nation was then engaged in World War II, and Mary went to work at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station for two years. She then worked for a year as a housekeeper in Eau Claire, Wis.

She continued, however, to feel drawn to religious life, and on Nov. 11, 1945, she reentered the Ladysmith community, this time to stay. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1946, and received the name Sister Mary Cyril. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1947, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1953.

She completed her last two years of high school at Our Lady of Sorrows in Ladysmith and took undergraduate courses from Viterbo College in La Crosse, Wis., and Loyola University of Chicago.

She taught at St. Louis School in Washburn, Wis., for five years and then moved to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where she worked for seventeen years as a nurse's aide and an assistant in the finance office.



In 1969, she became a companion and housekeeper to an elderly couple, Ken and Jessica Critchfield, in Oak Park, Ill., and later to their daughter Virginia G. Piper in Scottsdale, Ariz., following the death of Virginia's second husband Kenneth Piper, Vice President of Motorola.

In 1989 Sister Mary Cyril retired to Addolorata Villa. In June 1993, she fell and suffered a serious brain injury, which left her in a coma for several weeks. Against all odds she recovered from the coma and resumed her life at the Villa.

Sister Mary Cyril died peacefully at Addolorata Villa on Dec. 17, 2004. She was 85.

Father Frank Falco, OSM, presided at a memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on Dec. 20. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Dec. 21, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Celestine Tremblay, OSM 1918–2011

Myrtle Josephine Tremblay was born in Medford, Wis., on July 19, 1918, to Alex and Magdalen (Russell) Tremblay. She had two sisters, Luella and Bernice, and four brothers, Russell, Eugene, Cecil, and John.

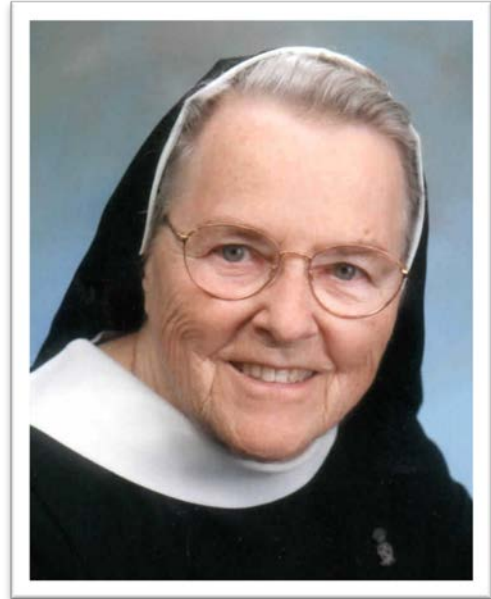
When Myrtle was about seven years old, the family moved to Ladysmith, where she attended St. Mary's School and was taught by Servite Sisters. In 1932, after graduating from the eighth grade, she entered the convent as an aspirant at age 14 and attended St. Mary's High School.

She became a postulant on Sept. 8, 1934, and a novice on Aug. 15, 1935, receiving the name Sister Mary Celestine. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1936, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1939.

Three of her siblings also entered religious life. Two older brothers, Russell and Eugene, became priests of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and a younger sister, Bernice, joined the Servants of Mary and took the name Sister Mary Eugenia.

Sister Celestine earned a bachelor's degree, with a major in education and minors in music and art, from St. Joseph College in St. Joseph, Minn. She also studied at the Chicago Institute of Art, Viterbo College in La Crosse, Wis., Rosary College in River Forest, Ill., Mundelein College in Chicago, and the Notre Dame Pontifical Catechetical Institute in Middleburg, Va.

She ministered as a teacher and principal in parochial schools in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin for 45 years. She gave music lessons and played the organ for church services wherever she was stationed. She was also a gifted artist and a certified grapho-analyst.



In 1981 Sisters Celestine and Eugenia moved to Sherman, Ill., to work with the elderly at The Villas Retirement Community. Nine years later they retired to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where they volunteered in the activities department. In 2005 they moved to Felician Village in Manitowoc, Wis., to be closer to their brother Father Eugene. In 2008, with both sisters in need of more care, they moved back to Addolorata Villa.

Sister Celestine died peacefully at Addolorata Villa on Dec. 26, 2011. She was 93.

Father Gus Kulbis, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at Addolorata Villa on Dec. 28, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith on Dec. 29. ■

Sister Mary Bernice VanderLoop, OSM 1920–2011

Bernice Catherine VanderLoop was born on a farm east of Ladysmith on Jan. 28, 1920, to George and Alice (Reynders) VanderLoop, the fourth of 13 children. Her parents were both from Holland and met in the United States. She had nine sisters, Martina, Marie, Loretta (Sister Mary John, OSM), Dorothy, Gertrude, Eunice, Audrey, Eileen, and Anne, and three brothers, Paul, Theodore, and George.

She attended Crabb Grade School and Tony High School. She obtained a teaching certificate from Rusk County Normal School and taught in rural elementary schools for four years.

She enlisted in the Women's Army Corp during World War II and rose to the rank of master sergeant. While enlisted she worked for a time in a top secret job at the Pentagon.

She entered the Servants of Mary on June 19, 1947, at age 27. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1948, and received the name Sister Mary Baptista. She later changed her name to Mary Bernice. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1949, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1955.

She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minn., and a master's in elementary administration from the University of Wisconsin-Superior. She also studied at Marquette University and Cardinal Stritch University, both in Milwaukee; St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis.; and the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul, Minn.

She ministered for 19 years as a teacher and principal in elementary schools in Minnesota, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. She chaired and taught in the education department at Mount Senario College, Ladysmith. In 1978 she was appointed superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Superior, a position previously held only by priests.



She served two consecutive terms as president of the Servants of Mary (1980–1983, 1983–1986) and one year as director of postulants and novices. She ministered as a religious education director in Illinois and volunteered at Howard Area Community Center in Chicago. In 2000 she retired to the motherhouse in Ladysmith, where she gave generously of her time and talents to Servite Center for Life.

In 2009 she moved to Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home in Ladysmith, where she died on Sept. 14, 2011. She was 91.

Her nephew Father Anthony VanderLoop presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Ladysmith on Sept. 19, with burial in the convent cemetery. The graveside ceremony included military honors in recognition of her service in the army. ■

Sister Mary Ambrose Vogel, OSM

1921–2006

Cecilia Monika Vogel was born on Dec. 25, 1921, in Becker, Minn., to Carl and Anna (Bohm) Vogel. She had two sisters, one older, Marie (Sister Mary Angelica, OSM), and one younger, Adeline.

The family moved to Sheldon, Wis., where her father died in 1928. Her mother died two years later, leaving the three girls with no one to care for them. Mother Mary Alphonse Bradley, OSM, took them to live at the convent and assigned. Sister Mary Michael Meagher and Sister Mary Bernard Samz to look after them.

The Vogel sisters attended classes at St. Mary's School in Ladysmith. The Sisters sent the girls out into the world to experience life beyond the convent before allowing them to decide whether to enter religious life. Cecilia and Marie chose to become Servite Sisters. Adeline married George Herndl and with him had two sons, Carl and Chris.

Cecilia entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 2, 1937. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1938, and received the name Sister Mary Ambrose. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1939, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1945.

Sister Mary Ambrose earned a bachelor's in music education from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minn., and a master's in music history from the University of Minnesota. From 1939 to 1979 she gave private music lessons and taught in elementary schools in Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. She also taught at Servite High School in Ladysmith.

Later she served for several years as secretary at Our Lady Gate of Heaven School in Chicago. In 1984 she was appointed secretary to the Servants of Mary Leadership Team, a position she held for ten years.

In her retirement, she volunteered at the Northwoods Family Resource Center in Ladysmith



and loved to work with flowers and gardening. She also enjoyed knitting, crocheting, macramé, and stamp collecting and played the organ and piano for services in the convent chapel.

In 1996 Sister Mary Ambrose underwent surgery to remove a tumor on her thymus gland. She suffered from myasthenia gravis, a chronic muscle disease associated with thymic abnormalities. She also suffered from severe vascular disease, which led to the amputation of her left leg in 2004. Following the surgery, she became a resident of Rusk County Memorial Nursing Home in Ladysmith, where she died peacefully on April 29, 2006. She was 84.

Father James Bartelme presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on May 4, assisted by Father Ephrem Pottamplackal, MCBS, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Angelica Vogel, OSM

1920–2001

Marie Vogel was born on Aug. 11, 1920, in Minneapolis, Minn., to Carl and Anna (Boehm) Vogel. Her parents were German immigrants. Marie had two younger sisters, Cecilia (Sister Mary Ambrose, OSM) and Adeline.

Marie's father died in 1928, and her mother died two years later. The three girls went to live at the Servants of Mary convent in Ladysmith, Wis.

The Sisters cared for the girls, sent them to classes at St. Mary's School in Ladysmith, and gave them piano lessons. Marie and Cecilia later became teachers, and Adeline became a nurse.

Both Marie and Cecilia chose to become members of the congregation. Marie entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 2, 1935. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1936, and received the name Sister Mary Angelica. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1937, and her final profession on Aug. 14, 1943.

Sister Mary Angelica was an educator all her life. She taught in Catholic elementary schools in Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. She taught science at Servite High School in Ladysmith, and later taught history for 12 years at Mount Senario College in Ladysmith.

Sister Mary Angelica received her PhD in history from Walden University in Naples, Fla. In 1972, she traveled to India on a fellowship from the United States Department of Education.

She worked with catechists in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind. She also ministered to Native Americans in Milwaukee, Wis., and to Hispanic Catholics in Aurora, Ill.

In 1987, she moved to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where she managed the Sisters Store, a secondhand shop in Wheeling. Proceeds



from the store went to assist needy residents at Addolorata Villa.

She retired to the motherhouse in Ladysmith, where she suffered a heart attack in 1990. After a period of recuperation, she once more filled her days with activity. She presented brief meditations on the local WLDY radio station, tutored students at Mount Senario College, and visited women at the Rusk County jail.

Sister Mary Angelica died in Ladysmith of a massive heart attack on March 6, 2001. She was 80.

Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on March 10, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Zita Vogel, OSM

1923–2004

Agnes Vogel was born on June 23, 1923, in Hillsview, S.D., to John and Elizabeth (Ettel) Vogel. She had nine sisters, Louise, Rose, Mary (Sister Norbert, OSB), Florence, Theresa, Elizabeth, Tillie, Clara, and Margaret, and six brothers, Leo, Bernard (Brother Bernard, OSB), Norbert, Clem, John, Jr., and another brother named Bernard, who died in infancy.

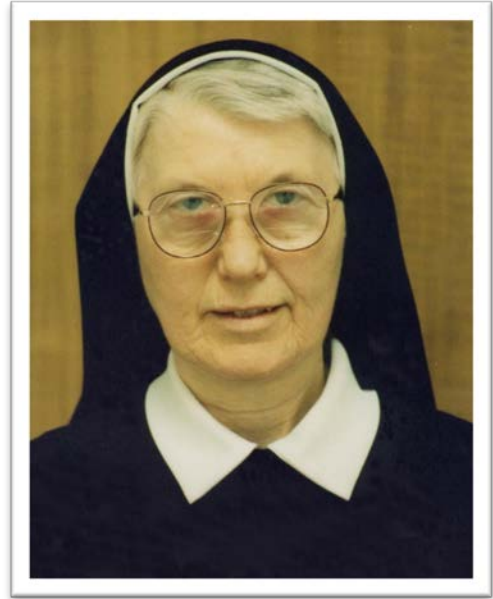
Agnes entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 4, 1944. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1945, and received the name Sister Mary Zita. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1946, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1952.

Although she was in her early 20s when she entered, Sister Mary Zita did not yet have her high school diploma. She graduated from Our Lady of Sorrows High School in Ladysmith, and later earned a bachelor's degree from St. Norbert's College in DePere, Wis. She taught in Catholic elementary schools in Illinois, Minnesota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

She had a good sense of humor and was always willing to join in the fun. She enjoyed cooking a pot of soup from her special recipes and baking her special doughnut muffins.

Sister Mary Zita retired to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill., where she continued to find ways to be of service to others. She remained active until her health began to fail in the summer of 2003.

After a series of falls and bouts of weakness, she was taken to Holy Family Medical Center in Des Plaines, Ill., for examination. Her condition deteriorated, and she died on March 17, 2004, with Sister Mary Helen Conley, OSM, at her bedside. She was 80.



Father Donald Gantley, OSM, presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on March 20. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial at the mother-house chapel on March 22, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Gertrude Wachtler, OSM 1985–1966

Teresa Wachtler was born on Jan. 20, 1885, in Saint Paul, Minn., to Lawrence and Teresa (Schmidt) Wachtler. She was baptized at St. Francis de Sales Church in Saint Paul. She had two sisters.

Teresa graduated from the School of Nursing at St. Joseph Hospital in Saint Paul, Minn., and came to Ladysmith to work at St. Mary's Hospital.

She entered the Servants of Mary on July 26, 1922, at the age of 37. She became a novice on March 19, 1923, and received the name Sister Mary Gertrude. She made her first profession of vows on March 25, 1924, and her final profession on Aug. 17, 1927.

In 1924, she succeeded Mattie Hayes as director of the Nurses' Training School in Ladysmith, which was operated in conjunction with St. Mary's Hospital. She served in this position until the school closed in 1934.

Sister Mary Gertrude then worked as a fundraiser for the congregation. She also spent hours each day at the hospital rolling bandages.

On one occasion, Sister Mary Gertrude visited the podiatrist in St. Paul. He remarked that anyone else with feet as crippled as hers would be in a wheelchair. Shortly thereafter, she was out walking again, raising money for the Sisters' needs.

She died at St. Joseph on the Flambeau Nursing Home in Ladysmith on June 18, 1966. She was 81.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Motherhouse chapel on June 21, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Frances Wanbaugh, OSM 1917–2003

Frances Margaret Wanbaugh was born on July 7, 1917, in Park Rapids, Minn., to Samuel and Emeline (Scanlon) Wanbaugh. She had two sisters, Mary and Evelyn, and two brothers, Wayne and Dean.

Frances became acquainted with the Ladysmith Servites when two Sisters came to teach religion in her home parish. Though she considered entering the community, she first completed teacher training and taught for a time in Emerald, Wis.

Frances entered the Servants of Mary on Aug. 28, 1939. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1940, and received the name Sister Mary Denis (she later chose to go by the name Mary Frances). She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1941, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1947.

Sister Mary Frances taught for 26 years in elementary schools in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. She then took a sabbatical and studied religious education at the Divine Word Center in Ontario, Canada. She worked for a year at the Christian Renewal Center in Rice Lake, Wis.

In 1969, Sister Mary Frances began a ministry to persons in parish settings. She visited the sick and elderly and did religious education at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica and Our Lady Gate of Heaven Church in Chicago and at San Xavier del Bac Mission in Tucson, Ariz. She had a deep passion for justice and witnessed a strong commitment to building a just and peaceful world.

In 1989, at the age of 72, she went to St. Matthew Parish in Dorchester, Mass., where she conducted a parish census among 25 ethnic groups. In the course of this project, she visited over 2,000 families in 10 months.

Sister Mary Frances was open to new ways of understanding, and she took advantage of every opportunity to learn and grow. She traveled to the



Holy Land, Ireland, Paris, Rome, and Lourdes, and to Monte Senario, the home of the Servite Order, near Florence, Italy.

In 1995 she retired to the motherhouse in Ladysmith. There she experienced the return of the cancer for which she had been treated some years earlier. She accepted this illness as a gift from God. She died on Jan. 9, 2003, at St. Mary's Home in Saint Paul, Minn. She was 85.

Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 13, with Father Leonard Fraher and Father Edward Mumper concelebrating. Burial was in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■

Sister Mary Paul Weber, OSM

1895–1951

Anne Amelia Frances Weber was born on March 18, 1895, in Mendota, Minn., to Leander and Augustine (Flugel) Weber. She had one brother, Gustave, and two sisters, whose names are not known.

Anne Amelia entered the Servants of Mary on Dec. 29, 1924. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1925, and received the name Sister Mary Paul. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1926, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1929.

Sister Mary Paul attended normal school for teacher training in Stevens Point, Wis., and then spent several years teaching in parochial schools. When her health declined, she was transferred to hospital ministry at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith, where she served for four years.

One day while she was arranging the nurses' dining room for breakfast, she experienced a strange numbness. She called for help and was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital. She had suffered a stroke.

Father Gerard Calkins, OSM, was called to her side and administered the Sacrament of the Sick while she was fully conscious. In less than an hour, she went into a coma from which she never fully recovered. She died on Feb. 22, 1951, at St. Mary's Hospital. She was 56.

Father Gerard Calkins, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Feb. 24, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Alexis Wegman, OSM

1876–1951

Cecilia Wegman was born on April 26, 1876, in Rochester, New York, to John and Margaret (Baumann) Wegman. She had two brothers, George and Fred.

Cecilia entered the Servants of Mary on July 2, 1922. She was 46 years old, and needed a dispensation from the rule to enter religious life at that age. She became a novice on March 19, 1923, and received the name Sister Mary Alexis. She made her first profession of vows on March 25, 1924, and her final profession on Aug. 17, 1927.

Sister Mary Alexis was the sacristan at the convent in Ladysmith for many years. She prepared for all services, arranged flowers, and kept everything in the chapel spotless and clean.

When Mary Therese Woods was adopted by Mother Mary Alphonse Bradley, OSM, she was entrusted to the care of Sister Mary Alexis, who called her Petsy.

Sister Mary Evangelist wrote that Sister Mary Alexis “had a great devotion to St. Joseph. When playfully, she was accused by one of the sisters of showing partiality to St. Joseph, she lightly replied, ‘The Good Lord Himself had his favorites.’” Sister Mary Evangelist also related that she often saw Sister Mary Alexis walking outdoors, carrying her rosary and praying. Once Sister Mary Evangelist asked her how many times she prayed the rosary each day, to which Sister Mary Alexis replied, “Dearie, I never count them.”

Sister Mary Alexis was in poor health for a number of years. She died early one Sunday morning, on Aug. 26, 1951. She was 75.

Father Breski, OSM, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Aug. 28, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Mary Carmelita Wilson, OSM

1918–1998

Clarita Mary was born on Sept. 8, 1918, in Hillside, Ill., to Emery Walter and Clara (Darnstadt) Wilson. She was baptized at Immaculate Conception Church in Elmhurst, Ill. She had three brothers, Francis, Walter, and Philip, and two sisters, Violet and Mary.

Clarita entered the Servants of Mary on Sept. 2, 1936. She became a novice on Aug. 15, 1937, and received the name Sister Mary Carmelita. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 16, 1938, and her final profession on Aug. 17, 1944.

Sister Mary Carmelita attended Rusk County Normal School and St. Scholastica College in Duluth, Minn. For the next 25 years, she taught in Catholic elementary schools in Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

In the 1960s she was treated for a brain tumor, and then suffered a stroke that left her right arm paralyzed.

After therapy, she went to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. There she ministered in the activities and social services department from 1966 to 1989. She continued to live at the Villa during her retirement years and spent many hours in volunteer service.

Sister Mary Carmelita loved to travel and visited many places of special interest to her. She particularly enjoyed her pilgrimages to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico and to Monte Senario, home of the Servite Order, near Florence, Italy.

She died at Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines, Ill., on Dec. 16, 1998. She was 80.

Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at Addolorata Villa on Dec. 21. Father John Anderson presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Dec. 22, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■



Sister Laurentia Zielinski, OSM

1914–1996

Veronica Josephine Zielinski was born on Dec. 19, 1914, in Chicago, Ill., to John and Catherine (Rog) Zielinski. She had one brother, Casimir, and two sisters, Mildred and Barbara. She was baptized at St. Casimir Church in Chicago.

Veronica entered the Servants of Mary on Dec. 28, 1942. She became a novice on Aug. 8, 1943, and received the name Sister Mary Laurence (she later changed her name to Laurentia). She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1944, and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1950.

Sister Laurentia was a licensed practical nurse when she entered the congregation. She worked at St. Mary's Hospital in Ladysmith from 1944 to 1959, first as a nurse, and then in the admissions and billing department.

She received a bachelor's degree in education from Mount Senario College and then taught in Catholic elementary schools in Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

After retiring from teaching, she did volunteer work at St. Therese Parish in Aurora, Ill.

When her elderly sister-in-law needed care, Sister Laurentia moved to Chicago and spent several years assisting her.

Sister Laurentia was diagnosed with lymphoma and underwent surgery and treatment at Mercy Hospital in Chicago. She continued to live with her relatives and helped them when her own health improved.

A few years before her death, she wrote, "My daily prayer is to work on my PhD (peaceful happy death), the final trip awaiting us all. When? Where? How? It is all in God's hands."

In 1996, she moved to Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Ill. She died a few weeks later, on Aug. 6, 1996. She was 81.



Father Marion Snieg presided at a memorial Mass at the Villa on Aug. 7. Father David Oberts presided at the Mass of Christian Burial in the motherhouse chapel on Aug. 9, with burial in the convent cemetery in Ladysmith. ■